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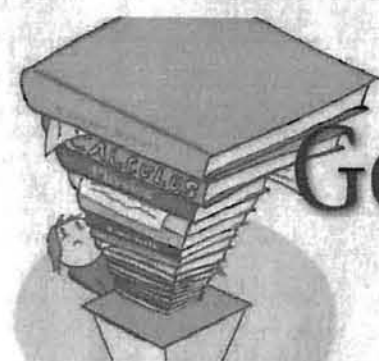
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Good luck on finals and happy holidays



VOLUME 38

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2005

ISSUE 1170

The Current

Your source for campus news and information



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Checking in on Gulf Coast student

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

Budget cuts loom in 2007

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
News Editor

All higher education institutions in Missouri, including UM-St. Louis, are looking at what possible 10 to 12 percent reductions to their budgets could mean for the 2007 fiscal year.

After the Missouri Office of Administration requested these scenarios, in addition to the Coordinating Board for Higher Education's response for two- and four-year institutions, the University of Missouri responded, too, with similar results.

"We were asked what would a 10 percent reduction in the [UM] budget entail and what are the consequences of that. And then a 12 percent [reduction]," Chancellor Thomas George said.

"For our campus, if you look in terms of what we get from the state, it's in the order of close to \$50 million a year," George said. He explained a 10 to 12 percent cut would translate to a \$5 or \$6 million reduction in the University's budget. "It is a substantial reduction if it were to occur," he said.

George noted reductions are subject to state appropriations and said the Missouri legislature is unclear about what the actual budget will be for the state next year.

The Office of Administration's requests this year are nothing new. George said higher education institutions were asked for scenarios involving reductions in budgets of up to 25 percent last year. The UM system received a flat budget last year, but George said the University may not be as lucky this year.

UM President Elson Floyd sent a letter dated Nov. 11 to Commissioner of Higher Education Greg Fitch regarding the impact of potential cuts. For the overall UM system, Floyd stated state funding reductions could range from about \$90 million (10 percent) to approximately \$108 million (12 percent).

In the letter, Floyd put the possible cuts into perspective for Missouri uni-

versities and colleges. "A reduction of over \$100 million could eliminate the entire state funding for all of the two-year institutions or over half of the four-year institutions," Floyd wrote.

George said UM-St. Louis has not looked at how budget cuts would affect specific departments or faculty, but Floyd outlined that approximately 76 percent of the UM system's budget is spent on "personal service expenditures for our faculty and staff positions."

"A cut of 10 percent to 12 percent (\$38.9 to \$46.7 million) would result in a reduction of \$29.5 to \$35.5 million in personal service expenditures. This would result in the elimination of 474 to 568 positions," Floyd wrote.

Jim Krueger, vice chancellor of Managerial and Technological Services, said since the UM-St. Louis campus receives about 12 percent of state appropriations for the UM system, 12 percent of UM-St. Louis faculty and staff positions could be cut, or approximately 57 to 68 positions.

While Floyd expressed concern about certain institutions declaring financial emergencies, George said he was unsure if a 10 percent reduction would cause a financial exigency for the UM system.

The concern stems from the fact that all public two- and four-year institutions in Missouri have remained under 2002 state appropriation levels, Krueger explained. "And on top of that, we get the lowest of all funding for per capita," Krueger said. "There are only three institutions that get a lower amount than us and they're not research universities."

The possibility of budget cuts could also affect tuition. "It will not be popular for students, but one option, if there is a cut, is to increase tuition," Krueger said.

"For the University of Missouri, a 10 to 12 percent reduction in state support would require a tuition increase of 10.5 to 12.5 percent to cover the reduction in support assuming no decrease in enrollment," Floyd wrote.

From losing faculty and staff to tuition increases, George said these possible consequences are in mind because "it affects students the most." If the cuts do actually occur, Krueger said the Budget and Planning Committee has developed "realistic and optimistic scenarios that advance the items in the Action Plan."



Elson Floyd
UM President



Adam D. Wiseman/The Current

The AIDS quilt hung in the Millennium Student Center last week. Quilt sections memorialize those who have died of AIDS. Below, Karen Hubbard, junior, nursing, studies under the memorial, which is the largest AIDS quilt on display in the entire Midwest.



AIDS at UMSL: Quilt, posters and activities shed light on deadly disease

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

Last week, tables, posters, quilts, discussions and guest presentations were held at UM-St. Louis to advocate AIDS Awareness Week.

Rob Budach, student services coordinator said that AIDS Awareness Week events at UM-St. Louis were a continuation of the events going on throughout the city of St. Louis.

"Events like Dining Out For Life, that benefited St. Louis Effort for AIDS, and other St. Louis AIDS related events were brought and publicized at UMSL," Budach said.

"Dining Out For Life," a fund-raiser held by numerous St. Louis locally-owned and operated restaurants and the Saint Louis Effort For AIDS (EFA), collected up to 100 percent of dinner proceeds to fund HIV/AIDS services. Over

200 restaurants and diners participate in this event each year. "Dining Out For Life" began in St. Louis in 1994 and since then, has collected over \$1.8 million for AIDS research and education.

AIDS can be spread through sexual contact with an infected person, sharing needles and at birth from a mother, who is infected.

According to www.AIDS.org, about 900,000 people are HIV-positive and this is the leading cause of death in the United States.

Courtney Haberer, PRIZM president, was one of the students who participated in some of UM-St. Louis week-long activities.

"The purpose of the events were to raise awareness of HIV and AIDS and to remember those suffering and those that we have lost," she said.

see AIDS AWARENESS, page 7

PRIZM's October drag show draws fire from gay Republican



File Photo/The Current

Student Tyler Cross performs at the PRIZM drag show in the Pilot House on Oct. 14. One student has charged that the show was indecent and a misuse of public funds.

BY MIKE SHERWIN
Editor-in-Chief

A dramatic drag show held on campus has stirred up controversy, and one student sent a letter of grievance to University officials and state legislators.

On Oct. 14, PRIZM, the campus organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered students held its second annual drag show in honor of "National Coming Out Day," in the Pilot House. The event, co-sponsored by the Office of Student Life, the Student Government Association, Horizons, Residential Life and the University Program Board, drew a crowd of nearly 250 people to the Pilot House.

Charles Stadtlander, senior, public policy, and president of the Log Cabin Republicans of Greater St. Louis, a political group for gay, lesbian and bisexual Republicans, attended the event and said he does not object to having a drag show on campus. However, he said, the PRIZM event was offensive and pornographic and that performers harassed heterosexuals in the crowd.

Stadtlander voiced his concerns in a letter on Oct. 26 to Vice Provost of Student Activities Curt Coonrod, Chancellor Thomas George, University of Missouri President Elson Floyd, six state representatives and the campus newspaper.

Stadtlander wrote, "the level of vulgarity, indecency, and negligence allowed to take place on the University of Missouri-St. Louis campus while utilizing student fees and tax dollars for funding, is appalling."

Coonrod and George responded to Stadtlander's letter on Oct. 27, stating that student fees alone funded the event, and that attendees could have left if they objected to the show's content. The response also noted that First Amendment rights of free speech and expression protected the drag show.

In November, Stadtlander sent a press release to local media outlets, and KTVI Fox 2 and the St. Louis Post-Dispatch picked up the story. KTVI reported that UM Curator David Wasinger pledged to investigate the incident.

Michael Rankins, student services advisor in the Office of Student Life, and one of the drag show organizers, said no one other than Stadtlander had complained about the show. Rankins

also said he did not find the show offensive.

"If anybody wasn't having a good time it was really hard to tell that night, because I saw a lot of laughter and smiles," he said. "I certainly did not see a lot of people screaming that it was lewd and lascivious and disgusting."

PRIZM President Courtney Haberer said many universities sponsor drag shows.

"Drag shows are a big part of the gay culture and the gay community. By bringing that to campus, I felt it showed that the gay community knows how to go out to have fun like any other community and that it's not a scary thing," she said.

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five game winning
streak

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commute?

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See what Hollywood
has to offer this winter

See page 8

Bulletin Board

Put it on the Board! Call 516-5174 for details or email current@jinx.umsf.edu

Monday, Dec. 5

UMSL Symphonic Band at PAC

The University Symphonic Band performs at the Touhill PAC 7:30 p.m. Conducted by Robert W. Nordman, visiting professor of music. Sponsored by the department of music. Free. Call 7970 for more information.

Panel Discussion of "Gender in the Classroom"

"Teaching Gender in the Classroom," a panel discussion and workshop, will be held at 4 p.m. in 211 Clark Hall. Sponsored by the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies. Free. Call 5581 for more information.

Tuesday Dec. 6

Reception for Gallery Visio AIDS fundraiser/exhibit

"Art for AIDS," an exhibit of artwork by UM-St. Louis students opens with a reception at Gallery Visio, on the first floor of the MSC, from 4 to 7 p.m. Artwork on display will be on sale, with 10 percent of proceeds going to St. Louis Effort for AIDS. Exhibit runs through Dec. 22 and is co-sponsored by PRIZM. Call 7922 for more information.

Study Abroad Information Session

Come to the lounge outside the University Advising Center 225 MSC from 9 to 9:45 a.m. to learn about studying abroad. Sessions will cover types of programs available, scholarships and financial aid and much more. All students considering study abroad should attend an information session as a first step. Call 6497 for more information.

Holiday Music Concert

The University Community Chorus, University Singers and University Orchestra will perform a holiday music concert at 7:30 p.m. in the Anheuser Busch Performance Hall at the Touhill PAC. The concert is free and open to the public and is sponsored by the Department of Music. Call 5980 for more information.

Wednesday, Dec. 7

Art for AIDS Exhibit

This 10 day art exhibit in Gallery Visio from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. will feature artwork by UM-St. Louis students. A portion of the proceeds from art sold will be donated to AIDS Service Organizations. The exhibit is sponsored by Gallery Visio and PRIZM. For more information on the event call 5013.

Thursday, Dec. 8

Second Annual Staff Association Holiday Bazaar

Come by Century room A in the MSC from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to shop for items. You can find gift baskets, knitted items, craft items, home-baked goods, sports memorabilia and much more. All proceeds benefit the John Perry Staff Association Scholarship Fund. Cash and checks can be accepted. Sports memorabilia must be paid for separately. For more information contact Debra Braun at 5919.

Summer Study Abroad Fair

Come by the MSC 2nd Floor Rotunda from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to learn about more than a dozen summer programs sponsored by UM-St. Louis. Summer study abroad is a great way to spend 2-6 weeks of your summer living in a foreign country, attending class and earning credit towards your degree. Stop by the fair to talk with program representatives and learn more, or call the Study Abroad Office at 6497 for more information.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception Holy Day Mass

Please join us in celebration of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception from 12:20 p.m. to 1 p.m. in J.C. Penney Building, Room 229. For more information call Tracy Van de Riet at 314-385-3455.

Friday, Dec. 9

Technology and Career Briefing

Information Technology Services will hold the second in a series of Technology and Career Briefings from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Century Room A at the Millennium Student Center. The seminar is open to all students, faculty and staff. It is sponsored by Cisco Systems and Nortel. Participants are asked to visit http://www.umsf.edu/technology/briefing_series/index.html in order to pre-register. Call 6000 for more information.

Put your event on the Bulletin Board by emailing information to current@jinx.umsf.edu

Put it on the Board:
The Current Events Bulletin Board is a service provided free of charge to all student organizations, University departments and divisions. Deadline for submissions to The Current Events Bulletin Board is 5 p.m., every Thursday before publication. Space consideration is given to student organizations and is on a first-come, first-serve basis. We suggest all postings be submitted at least one week prior to the event. Send submissions via mail at 388 MSC, One University Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63121, fax at 516-6811 or email at current@jinx.umsf.edu. All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

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Campus Crimeline

The following incidents were reported to the University of Missouri-St. Louis Police Department between Nov. 13, 2005 and Nov. 25, 2005. Remember that crime prevention is a community effort, and anyone having information concerning these incidents should contact the Campus Police.

Nov. 13, 2005 Property Damage by Intentional Burning University Meadows

The UM-St. Louis Police Department and the Normandy Fire Department responded to a dumpster fire in the complex around 5 a.m. The fire was determined to have been intentionally set, damage was contained to the dumpster. There was a witness, with a description of the possible suspect(s) and the investigation is ongoing.

Nov. 13, 2005 Stealing Under \$500- Parking Lot E

The victim reported that between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m., a DVD movie belonging to Blockbuster Video was stolen from his parked vehicle.

Nov. 15, 2005 Stealing Under \$500 Parking Lot NN

The victim reported that subject(s) unknown had removed his car stereo CD player from his parked vehicle. The theft occurred around 11 p.m., suspicious people were observed in the area just prior to the theft.

Nov. 17, 2005 Stealing Over \$500

The victim reported that on Nov. 14 between 11 a.m. and noon someone stole items (including various credit cards) from her purse. The victim did not discover the theft until Nov. 15.

Nov. 17, 2005 Tampering 2nd Degree- Parking Lot K

Officers working on patrol observed a suspicious subject (later identified as a juvenile) walking in Parking Lot K looking into cars. The suspect did open a car door, and was then confronted by police. The suspect was arrested and transported to the Juvenile Courts Building in Clayton, where the matter is being referred for charges of tampering with an automobile.

Nov. 19, 2005 Property Damage 2nd Degree University Meadows

The victim reported that sometime in the last two days, person(s) unknown threw eggs onto his vehicle while it was parked.

Nov. 19, 2005 Stealing Under \$500 Millennium Student Center

The victim reported that she was at the Millennium Student Center Pilot House for an all night game festival. Sometime between 2:15 a.m. and 6 a.m. she fell asleep, and her cell phone was stolen.

Nov. 21, 2005 Property Damage Attempted Stealing Lucas Hall 1st floor

Between 8 p.m. and 9 p.m., suspect(s) unknown damaged the front of a vending machine with a large rock in an attempt to open it. The machine did sustain some damage to the lock area; however, it remained secured and was not entered.

Nov. 23, 2005 Stealing Under \$500 8218 Natural Bridge Road


The victim reported that a bicycle was stolen from a carport sometime in the past few days.

NOTE: There have been recent reports of car break-ins on the campus. If you see anyone that looks suspicious or out of place you are encouraged to call the UM-St. Louis Police at 516-5155 or 911 if it is an emergency.

Please take the extra precautions during this holiday season to secure your personal possessions. Please keep all valuables with you at all times. Do not leave items in your vehicle in plain view; secure them at home or in the trunk if possible. Do not leave any item unattended while on campus. Most of our thefts occur when the victim leaves them for only a minute. Faculty and Staff members are asked to lock their office doors, work areas or desks every time they leave it, no matter what their reason for leaving.

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University of Missouri-St. Louis

DR. Martin Luther KING Jr.

Essay Contest

Theme: "Remembering the dream, Realizing the vision, Creating a future."

Qualifications for Contestants

- Contestant must be an enrolled UMSL student for fall 2005 and winter 2006 semesters. Registration for Winter must be made by December 9, 2005.
- Previous essay contest winners are not eligible.
- Winners must be present on January 16, 2006 at the MLK Holiday Celebration to receive cash award.
- Contestant must compose an original essay.

Essay Rules

- Essay must speak to the theme: Remembering the dream, Realizing the vision, Creating a future.
- Essay must contain at least 500 words but no more than 1000 words and will be judged on content and writing ability.
- Deadline for submission is December 9, 2005.
- Include a cover sheet with name, address, telephone number, student ID number and e-mail address with the essay submission. Include address and phone where you can be reached during the semester break.
- Submit essay by electronic submission in Microsoft Word format to willse@umsf.edu

Winners will be presented with their cash awards on Monday, January 16, 2006 at the annual MLK Holiday Observance.

First, second and third place winners could receive \$500, \$300, or \$200 based upon quality of essay.

For any additional help, the writing lab (409 SSB) is available to review your essay. Please contact the Office of Student Life at 516-5261 or the Office of Equal Opportunity at 516-5695 for more information.

Floyd scraps fixed tuition plan, proposes alternative

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
News Editor

After scrapping a proposed fixed tuition plan for the University of Missouri system, UM President Elson Floyd discussed an alternative tuition plan that promises to keep tuition increases in line with inflation.

Floyd discussed his alternate tuition proposal at the Board of Curators meeting Thursday in Kansas City, Mo. Floyd's plan calls for matching tuition increases with inflation rates as long as state appropriations keep pace with inflation.

Floyd's new plan comes after hearing feedback from a majority of Missouri students, parents and concerned citizens while touring the

state. According to a memo from Floyd to the Board of Curators, Floyd heard three main reservations about a fixed tuition model during his visit to UM-St. Louis.

First, because of the uncertainty of receiving state appropriations, UM-St. Louis would lean toward setting tuition at a higher rate to protect itself.

Second, incoming students, namely freshmen, would have to bear larger tuition increases on their shoulders than previous years.

Finally, seven different tuition schedules would be needed "(four for full-time freshmen through seniors, two for transfer students and one for all other students.)"

Maria Curtis, student representative to the Board of Curators, explained a fundamental change to tuition would be a change to every-

thing.

"There's just wasn't enough support. Any big change is going to have no overwhelming support. It didn't have enough momentum," Curtis said.

Curtis also said legitimate concerns existed over how the formulas for fixed tuition would work with the Missouri legislature.

The new proposal received much more support than the fixed tuition model at the meeting, Curtis said. "This is a stronger proposal and shows why the increases are necessary. Plus, there's no new money needed to implement [this plan]," she said.

The new model uses a formula involving the difference between the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI), which measures the inflation rates for tuition, and the Consumer

Price Index (CPI), which measures regular inflation. Under Floyd's alternative, tuition would increase only to the extent that regular inflation rates increase.

Floyd's memo explains since state appropriations and tuition account for the largest sources of each university's budget, if each contributes the same amount of money, both must increase by the HEPI to cover increasing inflation rates.

However, "if state appropriations increase less than the HEPI then the increase in tuition must make up the difference," Floyd wrote.

What Floyd's plan does is "if the state support doesn't keep up with these recognized indicators of inflation, then the University will raise tuition to make up the difference."

Floyd provided an example using

a CPI of 3 percent and HEPI of 0.5 percent, which translates to a 3.5 percent increase in funds needed. If appropriations for this fiscal year were zero, then the total tuition percentage increase for the next fiscal year would be 7 percent. If the percent change in appropriations were 3.5 percent, then tuition would only increase by 3.5 percent.

Curtis was unsure of the current tuition model used but said it was based on comparing enrollment numbers and retention rate to numbers from previous years. She said the UM system would predict budget cuts and raise tuition to make up the deficit. "It's more similar to the proposed tuition policy," she explained.

Curtis said the new policy is "not the answers to all of our problems, but it's so much better."

Tuition Plan Highlights

- Tuition increases based on Higher Education Price Index and Consumer Price Index, which measure regular and tuition inflation.
- No new money is needed to implement this plan.
- State appropriations and tuition must both increase by the Higher Education Price Index rate.

Bearden to propose bill that would mix state appropriation and voucher system

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
News Editor

Rep. Carl Bearden, R-St. Charles, plans to file a bill this January that would shift state money from Missouri colleges and universities to the students, yet one student organization worries about the consequences of the shift.

Bearden explained his proposed bill in a phone interview Friday. The bill would form a committee to discuss possibilities for funding higher education. Bearden said he wants to see funding for universities and colleges go from "base funding to the higher water mark [of 2001]."

"After reaching that point, it's a matter of changing the focus from funding institutions to funding students," he said.

Instead of state funds going directly to each state college and university, the money would follow the student. After a student chose a particular university, the money allocated to the student would go to the college or university that the student decided upon.

With Bearden's plan, state appropriations would first be given to both public and private state universities. Bearden added that the baseline for appropriations would be adjusted over time. After those funds are distributed, any money left over would be given to students in the form of vouchers.

Bearden explained the state would give scholarships or vouchers to students to take to any approved state university of their choice. Bearden compared these scholarships to the

Gallagher and Missouri Guarantee scholarships. He said what his bill calls for is "not different to what we're doing today."

Bearden claims his bill will help make college more affordable since there are students who could qualify for college, but do not because scholarships like Gallagher and Missouri Guarantee are not funded properly and therefore students do not have access to them.

Bearden said about 300 to 400 students qualified last year for scholarships similar to Gallagher and Missouri Guarantee that did not qualify this year. "It's because we don't fully fund it," he said. Bearden's plan hopes to resolve this issue by amply funding these scholarships.

While Associated Students of the University of Missouri has not taken a public stance yet, Craig Kleine, chair of the board of directors for ASUM, said he supports the aspect of Bearden's legislation that brings state appropriations to the "high-water mark level." Kleine said, "This part is great for University students and very positive."

However, Kleine did not agree with Bearden's idea to give state money directly to the students, which he compared to a voucher system.

Bearden's legislation follows similar voucher systems in other states, including Indiana, Illinois and Colorado. In Colorado, state institutions receive money only through a voucher system. No state appropriations are given to public or private universities, Bearden said. "Funding is through the student,"

he explained.

In Illinois' voucher system, Bearden said each university receives about \$4,500 per student. "Preliminary data from institutions in these states shows that it works really good," Bearden noted.

However, not everybody feels that way. Kleine is opposed to Bearden's proposal because state appropriations would be divided between public and private universities, so public institutions like the UM system would receive less amounts. He believes tuition would increase at public universities "if public money is dispersed among all universities, not just public."

Bearden said the allegation concerning tuition is not accurate. He said tuition is affected by how efficient a university is.

Thomas Helton, ASUM board member from UM-St. Louis, said Bearden's plan places "so much responsibility on the student."

Helton, who also works in the Admissions Office, said, "When students come to look at the school, a lot of it has to do with the reputation of the institution." Helton explained UM-St. Louis provides certain services based on the direct funding system. "It all depends on their allocation of money," he said.

Kleine said, "The feeling we've got from the legislation is there's not a lot of support for the bill."

Bearden's similar proposal last year did not make it out of the higher education committee in the House.

Curators clear Sue Shear Institute from allegations of bias

BY BEN SWOFFORD
News Associate Editor

The UM-Board of Curators voted six to three in support of the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life at the Curators meeting at UM-Kansas City last Thursday.

The vote was a symbolic show of support for the institute, which has been under attack, most recently at a Board of Curators meeting at UM-St. Louis, for the lack of male participation and what some see as political bias.

"We are glad to have questions about the legal issue resolved. We are thrilled to have the support of the Board of Curators," said Dayna Stock, manager of the Sue Shear Institute at UM-St. Louis.

During their meeting at UM-St. Louis, the Curators listened to an attack on the Institute spearheaded by State Representative Jean Cunningham, R-Chesterfield. Charges of Democratic bias in the Institutes classes and programs and discrimination against men were brought against the institute at the meeting.

"It is very disappointing that a majority of the Curators voted to violate Missouri Statute, RSMo 115.646, [which states], 'No contribution or expenditure of public funds shall be made directly by any officer, employee or agent of any political subdivision to advocate, support, or oppose any ballot measure or candidate for public

office," Cunningham said.

"We are a non-partisan, non-issue organization. We have had a lot of women from both parties as part of faculty and students in classes we offer," Stock said.

Stock claimed that the Institute had helped over one third of female Republican Representatives in Jefferson City, a higher percentage of

has been affirmed and relieved of legal concerns," Vivian Eveloff, director of the Sue Shear Institute, said in a press release. "We appreciate the overwhelming support from the community, as well as the Curators, and look forward to moving ahead with an ambitious schedule in 2006."

Male participation is always encouraged and never not permitted in all institute programs said Stock.

The institute was created in 1996 at the UM-St. Louis campus. In 1998 it was named in honor of State Legislator Sue Shear, who died the same year and still holds the record for longest serving Missouri legislator.

"The Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life is a nonpartisan, educational organization that helps women break through the internal and external barriers to full participation in the public policy process," reads the Institute's Mission.

The Board of Curators fully endorses the mission of the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life and supports the work of the Sue Shear Institute on the University of Missouri- St. Louis and the University of Missouri-Kansas City campuses," reads the resolution passed by the Board of Curators.

The Sue Shear Institute is currently looking for students interested in participating in their weeklong 21st Century Leadership Academy.

“
We are pleased that
after a year of
scrutiny from some
of the Curators, the
work of the Institute
has been affirmed
and relieved of legal
concerns.
— Vivian Eveloff
SSI Director
”

Curators approve new enrollment plan

On Thursday, the UM Board of Curators voted 8-1 in favor of a new automatic admission policy for Missouri high school students graduating at the top of their class.

The policy, expected to begin in the fall 2006 semester, states, "any student attending a Missouri high school who ranks in the top 10 percent of his or her graduating class and completes the college preparatory curriculum ... will be eligible for automatic admission to any of the University of Missouri campuses."

The policy also gives any high school graduate from Missouri, who does not rank in the top 10 percent but completes the preparatory curriculum and receives at least a 3.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale, automatic eligibility to enroll at any of the four UM

campuses.

In addition to these two policies, each student admitted must provide an ACT or SAT score.

Student Curator Maria Curtis said she believes high school graduates in the state of Missouri will most likely base their decision to go to college or choose a Missouri university on this plan. "It's a way of increase the number of people who go to college," Curtis said.

John Andersen, chairman of the Inter-campus Student Council, announced his organization's support in a press release two days before the curators' vote.

Curtis reminded students that the plan does not necessarily guarantee admittance, rather, eligibility for admittance into a UM system school.

Curator David Wasinger of St. Louis was the lone opponent to the vote. His reason for opposition stemmed from a similar model in

Texas.

Curtis explained, "The University of Texas has a similar policy, but the legislature said they had to admit [students] no matter what. He said it had negative consequences."

She said the University of Texas had difficulties admitting every student that the legislation promised because Texas did not have the provisions the Missouri policy calls for.

ASUM budget discussed

Vice chancellors of student affairs from all four University of Missouri campuses met last week to discuss a new centralized budget for the Associated Students of the University of Missouri. The new budget would mean all campuses except UM-Columbia would pay substantially higher amounts to the central office in Columbia, reducing funds available for each campus' internships or campus programming.

The UM-St. Louis campus appears to be the only campus with a substantial opposition to the plan, which would mean the loss of \$16,000 from the campus ASUM's annual budget. UM-Columbia currently pays the bulk of the \$91,000 it takes to pay for the salary of ASUM's executive director Beth Tankersly-Bankhead and the central office which is located on the Columbia campus. The UM-St. Louis SGA voted down a proposed ASUM St. Louis budget based on the centralization model.

Starbucks comes to UMSL

Starting in January, Aroma's Bakery will serve Starbucks coffee rather than the Ritazza brand it currently sells.

Student Government Association President D'Andre Braddix made this announcement at the SGA meeting on Dec. 2. Agenda items at the meeting included the

discussion and ultimate passage of a resolution that states SGA's support of diverse programming on campus. The resolution comes after a UM-St. Louis student complained to the Board of Curators and Missouri legislators about a campus event. The student, Charles Stadlander, said a drag show event co-sponsored by PRIZM, SGA and the University Program Board, was offensive and inappropriate. The resolution did not pinpoint this incident, but it reinforced SGA's stance that Student Affairs and the Office of Student Life should hold the power to approve or disapprove campus programs.

SGA also elected Stephen Keener to replace Nick Koechig as parliamentarian, since Koechig will spend next semester in Washington, D.C., as an ASUM federal intern. The assembly voted for Casimir Koziatsek to fill the hole left on Student Court by Kit Blanke, who will graduate in December.



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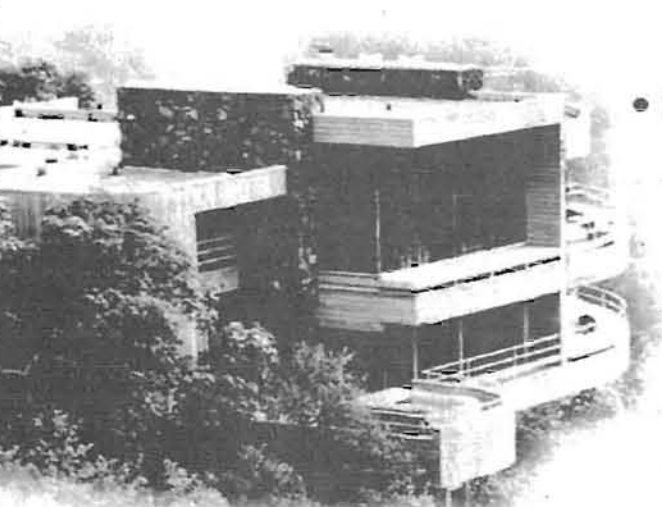
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LETTERS

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Letters to the editor should be brief, and those not exceeding 200 words will be given preference. We edit letters for clarity and length, not for dialect, correctness, intent or grammar. All letters must be signed and must include a daytime phone number. Students must include their student ID numbers. Faculty and staff must include their title(s) and department(s). Editor-in-chief reserves the right to respond to letters. The Current reserves the right to deny letters.

Our Opinion

Attack on drag show illustrates censorship

A lack of diverse campus programming robs students of the horizon-broadening experience we seek in college. In order to prepare us for life after college, University life should mimic reality, since the world we will enter upon graduation doesn't fit any molds.

The recent attack on a controversial campus event illustrates the drama that often accompanies diversity.

The University Program Board, Student Government Association, Residential Life Horizons, the Office of Student Life and PRIZM, a student organization that supports and explores the culture of the GLBT (gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender) community, co-hosted a free drag show in October. The sponsoring organizations brought in professional drag queens for a night of lip syncing, dancing and celebrating National Coming Out Day.

Charles Stadlander, UM-St. Louis student and Log Cabin Republicans of Greater St. Louis president, complained to UM-St. Louis administrators, the UM Board of Curators and several Missouri legislators that the program offended him.

"I have never been so offended, mortified and angered ... It is with great regret and humility that I respectfully ask the citizens of Missouri to not judge the entire gay and lesbian community by the misguided actions of a few," he said in a press release.

He also requested that those responsible for hosting be severely disciplined.

While we're at it, let's just be safe and only invite politically neutral, uncontroversial speakers to campus. And let's make sure the Curators approve of our lecture topics. Maybe we need to call up the governor every time we form a student organization with potentially divisive viewpoints. Perhaps we should ask the Chancellor to proofread the newspaper before we publish so we don't disrupt the fragile, sheltered University environment with any conflicting opinions. Maybe we're offended by a religious-oriented campus organization, so we should silence all efforts to spread their message.

The nature of an adult program undeniably has the potential to offend, but those who disagree with the content have the freedom to stay home or leave the event. The majority of people attending obviously enjoyed the event, and they chose to stay and watch for entertainment purposes.

Children did attend the event with parents, and Stadlander found this upsetting.

Parents also let their kids watch R-rated movies, play violent video games, watch sexually suggestive television programs and hear explicit language at home. There aren't any laws against exposing your kids to controversial material, and the parents who brought children to the drag show

made that decision legally.

UM-St. Louis has hosted a fair share of offbeat programs. Last year, Honest John made crude jokes and pantomimed sex with old ladies. George Carlin poked fun at suicidal people.

A student comedy group performed a sketch titled "fuck." The Residence Hall Association hosts an annual "Miss RHA" amateur drag competition during which males parade around in female clothing. The Pierre Laclède Honors College holds a pool tournament each year called "Get Felt" and lets students produce the edgy newzine "Brain Stew."

While these activities would undoubtedly offend at least one of UM-St. Louis' 16,000 students, they provide entertainment and diverse learning opportunities for many others.

If the drag show took place in the Nosh at 12:30 on a Tuesday afternoon or during a mandatory class, students might have more cause for complaint. In the case of the drag show, though, no circumstances prevented uncomfortable individuals from leaving.

How ironic: someone who wants to better society wants to achieve improvement with censorship, a practice from which this country's Constitution protects us.

We shouldn't sacrifice freedom of speech and diversity on the altar of safe neutrality.

Editor's Opinion

Target kicks the Salvation Army bucket

Rosy-cheeked volunteers smile, wispy clouds of breath punctuating their cheery holiday greetings. The familiar ding of a bell cuts through the rush of holiday shopping and freezing air.

The Salvation Army's red kettle charity drive has become a traditional part of the commercial season, ringing bells for 114 years. The faith-based organization provides numerous services, including shelter, drug rehabilitation, senior citizen assistance, disaster relief, visitation services and other social improvement programs at centers around the country.

Last year, the Target Corporation announced that it would no longer allow Salvation Army bell ringers to solicit donations on company property to maintain Target's non-solicitation policy. Despite the fact that it had allowed the Salvation Army to seek charitable funding in the past, Target decided to pull the plug last year, stating that other non-profit organizations wanted the same deal.

The corporation wants to give shoppers a "respectful, distraction free shopping" experience. By tossing the Salvation Army onto someone else's street, Target helps free its patrons from the distraction of social problems they won't otherwise encounter.

Target's policy enforcement lost the Salvation Army about \$9 million last year, about 10 percent of the organization's holiday donation intake. In an attempt to compensate for this substantial loss and gain back public

approval, Target has partnered with the Salvation Army this season to provide essentials for hurricane survivors. From now until January 25, 2006, people who want to participate can visit Target's website and purchase items, which the company will send to the Salvation Army for distribution. Target has promised at least \$1 million in merchandise, meaning it will pay the difference if customer donations

don't hit the mark.

This lame PR move smacks of self-contradiction. It remove the personal aspect connected to bell ringing, adds an air of philanthropy on Target's part and solicits online customers instead of traditional shoppers.

The Salvation Army reminds us, the lucky percent of the population, that not everyone shares our relatively carefree holiday agendas. As we prepare for big family dinners, other people hope they can sustain their families on meager earnings. While the busy shoppers concern themselves with plans for holiday parties, others worry about finding a warm place to sleep.

Be extra kind to those bell ringers if you can afford it. Give two bucks instead of one, sacrifice a cup of afternoon coffee and donate that money, or find out how you can volunteer your own time. During your holiday shopping endeavors, support organizations that support society. Find a red kettle or visit the Salvation Army's website at www.salvationarmy.com.



KATE DROLET
 Managing Editor

The Rogue Librarian

Sex and violence in the libraries (mostly sex)

RALEIGH MUNS

UMSL Reference Librarian

Most people are unaware that the majority of libraries are secretly seething with works chock full of sex and violence goodness. Those who seek to remove such literature from our libraries typically pick on obvious choices. For instance, the magazine Playboy used to be a staple of large city public libraries but is rarely found in them today. The main rationale used for ceasing library subscriptions to Playboy revolved around ongoing "damage" to the magazines by library users.

Interestingly, a formal study comparing damage to Playboy vs. damage to Boy's Life (official magazine of the Boy Scouts of America) found that there was more harm caused to Boy's Life by peanut butter stains and torn pages than anything done to copies of Playboy.

St. Louis County Library does not subscribe to Playboy, and St. Louis City Library only has the 1953-1968 issues on grainy black and white microfilm. UMSL? Yeah, right. Of related interest is that the Library of Congress stopped funding the transcription of Playboy into braille during the tenure of Ronald Reagan as

America's Grand Inquisitor. The only population that actually looked at the magazine just for the articles had been tripped up by the banninators.

Still, should one know where to look, it's pretty easy to get your fill of some good old fashioned prurient literature within library land.

Let's start with The Decameron by Giovanni Boccaccio. Written in the year 1350, this book can be thought of as that century's version of the notorious computer game, Grand Theft Auto. In the 100 tales spun in this classic work: you can find a young woman growing sweet basil in a pot containing the decapitated head of her murdered lover (Day 4, Story 5); a man pretending to be deaf and mute seducing all the nuns in a convent (Day 3, Story 1); and a lecherous priest teaching a young virgin how to put his "devil" in her "hell" (Day 3, Story 10).

Understand, Boccaccio isn't attacking God or religion; his targets were the corrupt individuals in the 14th century Church bureaucracy. For full access to The Decameron point your browser at <http://www.brown.edu/Research/Decameron/> and enjoy!

Willy Shakespeare is rather well known for injecting bawdiness into his writings. Unfortunately, his sexiest work, the poem "Venus and

Adonis," is seldom read. Old Bill could be writing a Harlequin Romance when he puts these words in the mouth of the aroused Love Goddess, decrying to Adonis: "Gaze on my lips, and if those hills be dry, Stray lower, where the pleasant fountains lie." Whoa. Passages like these were excised by one William Bowdler in the 19th century, resulting in many of the versions of Shakespeare that persist in boring most high school students. I had to wait until attending UCLA to finally be introduced to "the two-backed beast."

With all of this hot and heavy literature already in our libraries (and I'm just scratching the surface), I'm amazed that books like Sex by Madonna aren't purchased by more libraries. I lost the battle for purchasing it in my second year here at UMSL (1992). I strongly protested that we ought to purchase it precisely because it was controversial. How else can one do a comparative analysis of Madonna with Shakespeare or Boccaccio? In the entire MOBIUS consortium, only noble Mizzou saw fit to purchase Ms. Ciccone's unworthy tome, and one of their two copies is already "missing" from their non-circulating closed special collections library. The remaining copy is probably stained with peanut butter.

Staff Viewpoints

Student services won't get better without funding

Like Scott Jacques, the graduate student in criminology who wrote a letter to the editor last week, I want the campus libraries open longer hours. But I know it ain't gonna happen.

For those of you who don't know, Gov. Matt Blunt's administration has asked the university system to cut its budget by at least 10 percent. At times like these, we can only expect the level of services to get worse.

We have a government in Jefferson City that does not like funding public education. As noted in The Current last week, a Republican State Representative wants to take funding away from the university and use it to give scholarships to students at private universities. Taking the few hundred dollars off, say, the \$ 24,760 undergraduate tuition at Saint Louis University, would still leave students with a much bigger bill than they would pay here.

But the biggest problem is something I've noted before in my column: the Hancock Amendment. The Hancock Amendment limits the amount of money Missouri can raise in taxes without holding an election. The limit is 5.64 percent of the personal income of individual Missourians. What that means is that when corporations are raking in ever higher profits, as many are now, but not raising wages as quickly as inflation, as most aren't, state govern-

ment spending in Missouri cannot even increase at the rate of inflation. The tax base can increase, but the limit on spending may not go up as quickly.

In other words, unless the University of Missouri gets some pretty hefty private donations, the level of state support will continue to go down, tuition will rise and the university will cut back on essentials, like library hours.

So what's a student to do?

If you need to use a university library after hours, go to Washington University or Saint Louis University. Saint Louis University's Pius XII library is open until 1 a.m. Sunday through Thursday, while Washington University's Olin Library is open until 2 a.m. on the same days.

If you get rich after graduating, donate generously to your alma mater.

And call your legislators and tell them you want them to repeal the Hancock Amendment. They need to hear this. Many of them agree that Hancock needs to go, but are afraid to say so publicly.

Sen. Charles Wheeler of Kansas City is an exception. He campaigned on a platform of abolishing the Hancock Amendment. We need more legislators like him.

Hancock won't go away unless Missourians raise their voices about it often.



BENJAMIN ISRAEL
 Staff Columnist

What's your opinion?

You can make *your* voice heard in a letter to the editor.



Heavin Horn
 Junior, Psychology

In all my higher level math classes from now onwards!



Jared Corgan
 Junior, Electrical Engineering

Intro to Electrical Networks. It's sounds easy as an intro class but it's not. The class average for the first test was 41%...



Jiara Jackson
 Junior, Business

Econ. It's not that hard but it's tedious with all the complex answers and labelling and everything.



Chris Breuer
 Junior, Engineering

Probably any of my chemistry classes. They are all hard.

Under Current

by **Kevin Ottley**
 Photo Associate

In which final would you most like to have the big red easy button?

Science Column

Here's looking at you, kid

Evolution seen in the eyes

Clearly, humans are the most dominant and successful species on Earth, as far as influencing the planet. Other species, like cockroaches, may be more numerous, but generally these success stories may be due to exploiting doorways we have opened. We expect ourselves to be the most highly evolved, complex species around.

One of the biggest surprises of the Human Genome Project's DNA sequencing results was that people have far fewer genes than expected. The fact that we found fewer genes than we need for our complexity means that the real key may be in the regulation of genes and gene expression, not just the sequence.

DNA sequencing and molecular biology techniques have added a new tool for the exploration of the evolution of species, adding new information about relationships between species that were once only determined by looking at skeletal and fossil evidence.

One common view was that human genes would be very different from the earliest animals and that simpler species would have genes that more closely resembled earlier animals. Rather than being the most highly-evolved species on the block, it appears we are more slow-evolving than expected. But that slow-go, conservative approach might be part of our secret of success.

Genes contain the genetic code that is used to produce polypeptides, including proteins. Animal genes generally have extra bits of DNA called introns, which are removed



BY CATE MARQUIS
Science Columnist

when the gene is used. However, animals vary in the number of introns their genes have. Humans and other vertebrates have many more introns than simple organisms like fruit flies, so it was assumed that the earliest organisms would have fewer introns.

But not so, according to a new study from the European Molecular Biology Laboratory, published in a recent issue of the journal, "Science." It appears that introns are something that our more slowly evolving species has retained, rather than gained. Fast-evolving species like flies have lost most of their introns.

Evolutionary history of animals used to be determined by comparing the physical characteristics, between of modern species and in the fossil record. Molecular techniques and DNA sequencing have given biologists a new tool to determine what the common ancestor of two species may have been like. In high diverged

species, like humans and flies, comparisons of genomes are essential.

This study used a "living fossil" species of worm that is very similar to those found in the fossil record. This small marine worm, called *Platynereis dumerilii*, is similar to fossils that date to the Cambrian period about 600 million years ago. The worm's genome was sequenced by an international consortium of researchers and compared to already sequenced species, including humans.

The results show that not only are vertebrates slowly evolving animals that have retained the introns found in this living fossil species, but the position of the introns, as well as the sequence of DNA in the introns, is conserved. Surprisingly, the structure of the worm's genes was found to be very similar to human genes, unlike the genes of simpler, fast-evolving species sequenced so far.

Biologists had assumed that genes were becoming more complex over time, but the opposite appears to be true. The ancient worm's genes are complex, like our genes, indicating that complexity is being conserved rather than added. The fast evolving species are losing complexity.

This startling result led researchers to comment that slow-evolving animals like vertebrates were almost like "living fossils" themselves, compared to very-changed species of invertebrates. Conserving genetic complexity may be an important key in evolution.

Letters to the Editor

Victims' sister: Gray deserves no sympathy

I was deeply appalled and saddened by Marella Keith's commentary, "Grieving Marlin Gray" in issue 1169 of *The Current*.

Ms. Keith, one of the many bleeding hearts desperately searching for a cause, ignorantly mourned the execution of Marlin Gray, one of the men who beat, raped and murdered my sisters, Julie and Robin Kerry.

What has happened to justice in our society? Why was it okay for this man to brutally rape and murder two innocent girls, but not for him to die (15 years later, I may add, and quickly, unlike my sisters who had to endure multiple beatings and gang rapes by Marlin Gray and his friends before they were killed)?

In her commentary, Ms. Keith cites an example of a so-called "discrepancy" in the case against Gray: "How are you charged with rape if there wasn't a DNA test done?" A DNA test couldn't be done, Ms. Keith, because by the time Julie's body was found, it was so badly decomposed by the river Gray threw her into that it was impossible.

And as to your question of how someone is charged with murdering

two people when only one body is recovered-Are you serious? Do you think just because her body was never found that Robin is still alive? That she wasn't murdered? Maybe you think she's just taking an extra-long vacation?

You say you believe in human rights, Ms. Keith. Were my sisters not human? Where are their rights? Where were their rights to life when your acquaintance Marlin Gray and his accomplices beat, raped and murdered them?

Ms. Keith also wrote that she felt that Gov. Blunt should have "grant[ed] this man [Gray] a stay until the case could be further examined." Ms. Keith, apparently, has not researched this case quite as much as she claims.

Gray had numerous appeals. In fact, he exhausted the maximum number of appeals allowed by law. Each time, he was still found guilty. The evidence was conclusive, and none of the loopholes he attempted to find were enough to override that.

Ms. Keith was right about one thing, though. Marlin Gray did say he was innocent. He lied up until the day

he died, declaring that he was innocent for a different reason each time that his story changed. His last story, in fact, was especially convincing. He wasn't even on the bridge, he said; he was in the car smoking a joint. Wonderful.

Hey, I'm convinced. Please excuse the above sarcasm. I'm just amazed that someone actually believed that. It is certainly very nice to try to help others, but perhaps in the future Ms. Keith should focus her efforts on someone who deserves it.

And please, Ms. Keith, do not be so audacious as to say that you grieved for Julie and Robin. You supported their murderer, putting your stamp of approval on their deaths and deeming their lives worthless. How dare you.

To the staff of *The Current*: I have to say that I'm deeply disturbed by people like Ms. Keith who simply jump at the chance to protest something without even knowing the truth about what it is they are protesting, as well as by those who publish their under-informed articles.

Jamie Kerry, UM-St. Louis alumna, 2003 and former staff member of *The Current*

Drama over PRIZM's drag show reveals hypocrisy

I was deeply concerned with the Fox 2 news coverage, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch response, and the response of the school. I attend UM-St. Louis, and, frankly, it is time for the Midwest to wake up and smell the coffee.

Hundreds of other universities, including Loyola University Chicago, where I received my undergrad, has drag shows every year. I am appalled that an organization that preaches nothing but peace, openness, diversity, and acceptance is attacked for trying to introduce others to one small aspect of

GLBT life.

What is worse is that a conservative, right-wing group such as the Log Cabin Republicans, a gay group on campus, has the audacity to hate other GLBT people. Some would state that to be a Log Cabin Republican is nothing less than hypocrisy itself! Why is it wrong to promote diversity? Why is it wrong to be who you are? Why is it wrong to realize that GLBT people are here and we don't have to like it, but we do have to get along? Lastly I remind others that, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men

are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

We all have the choice to attend or not to attend, and we fund events from both the Log Cabin Republicans and Prizm at UM-St. Louis, why can't we support one another?

**Joseph Hosea
Graduate student
PRIZM member**

Letters to the Editor

Granger disagrees with Marine's views

As a former UM-St. Louis student and former editor-in-chief of *The Current*, I make it my business to read the paper online whenever possible. Keep up the good work, Mike and company.

However, I have to take issue with a letter to the editor that ran recently from a Marine supporting the war in Iraq. He says that it does not matter that Iraq may not have had weapons of mass destruction, harbored terrorists or pursued yellow cake uranium. Saddam Hussein committed atrocities against humanity. Granted.

Saddam will never win a humanitarian award, and I'd just as soon attack him with a spoon (it's duller, it'll hurt more). However, there is a serious

problem inherent in fighting over "crimes against humanity."

First of all, where does it end? Is Saddam the only bad guy out there? What about the situation in Sudan or the Congo, or any number of African countries? What about China? The record on human rights isn't exactly stellar. Do we go after China? That one might not work out so well.

Second of all, since when is it up to the United States to dictate the evolution of a sovereign nation? Like it or not, Iraq was a nation unto itself, beholden to no one. Why does the United States get to say they need to change? Countries are living, breathing entities that evolve of their own accord, by the people. You cannot

force it to happen (see: Revolution, Bolshevik); it always backfires.

Finally, since when is it American policy to act in a preemptive manner? We attacked a country that had never killed an American (other than the first Gulf War, which was fine by the way; they attacked an ally), never threatened to attack the United States. I 100 percent support our troops. They are doing what they are told to do, and I admire that. But don't say this war is just because we are liberating a people. If people want to be liberated, they are usually quite good at it themselves (see: Revolution, American).

**Jason Granger, alumnus,
Former Current Editor-in-Chief**

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**Raleigh Muns
UM-St. Louis Reference Librarian**

Displaced students wonder where to call home now

Katrina students at UMSL weigh the possibility of returning to Gulf

BY NAKENYA SHUMATE
Staff Writer

To go home or not to go home is the question on the minds of the students from the Gulf Coast states. For the past three to four months, the nearly 100 students displaced by hurricane Katrina called St. Louis their home.

Some students are eager to return to their lives and help rebuild their homes. Some are content staying at the University and will continue next semester. For others, the future of their education is uncertain and torn between two schools and two homes.

Shante Berry, senior, business marketing, is leaning towards going back to Xavier University. She said that UM-St. Louis has been very hospitable.

"They're the only university that did not give a run-around," she said. "I underestimated [UM-St. Louis] and all that they offered. I'm glad I came here."

Overall, Berry feels anticipation about returning home. "I want to see the city rising, and jobs opening," she said. As a senior, she wanted to graduate from her home university.

Nikki Williams, freshman, international business, plans to stay at UM-St. Louis. She originally attended Louisiana State University, but relocated to St. Louis. Williams said she plans to visit New Orleans in the spring but has decided to complete her undergraduate program at UM-St. Louis.

"The International Business program is a lot better than the other program [at LSU]," she said. Although St. Louis was originally her home town, Williams says people have been very hospitable.

Universities in Louisiana are reopening and getting ready for those



Adam D. Wiseman/ The Current

Shante Berry, senior, business marketing, has still not decided whether or not to go back to New Orleans next semester. "I have had to adapt to this new environment, and I have learned a lot from this experience," she said.

students who were relocated to enroll once again. Loyola, Xavier, Dillard and Tulane Universities have been working closely together to prepare for students.

Dillard University now houses portions of its buildings on the Tulane campus.

Loyola University plans to reopen in January and has started accepting applications and assisting students with financial aid. Their renovated website theme "Creating a Future for the City, Loyola University RE-New Orleans" heartens the restoration and rebuilding that the university has had to do.

Louisiana State University (LSU),

which was not severely affected by the hurricane, expected a significant increase in enrollment until neighboring universities were restored. "2700 additional students were enrolled this fall semester," said Frank Cartledge, vice provost for LSU. However, he did not know how many of those students will stay.

The university expects those numbers will drop as significant improvement is being made to reopen neighboring universities and students will want to return to their home university.

Due to the U.S. Department of Education's recent decision, "visiting

students cannot get federal aid unless their previous institution is closed or unable to offer their degree program," Cartledge said. This may compel more students to transfer back home as their original universities open this spring.

That news may not sit well with students, however. In a memo to visiting students, LSU Chancellor Sean O'Keefe said, "Displaced students will not have to pay additional tuition and mandatory fees over those which would be expected at the home institutions."

In addition, returning disaster students may be eligible for Louisiana's

Tuition Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS), to assist with tuition fees and expenses.

With the restoration wiping away the familiarity of old landmarks, Louisiana will never be the same. Will it still be home? Will they ever gain back their sense of normality? Tulane University's President Scott Cowen said, "We will be a wiser institution as a result of what's happened, and I think we will confect ourselves in terms of what we do in the classroom and outside, that will make it [an] even more profound experience than before the storm itself."



Adam D. Wiseman/ The Current

Bonnie Nations, senior, education, looks for a parking spot Thursday morning on north campus. She commutes an average of an hour and a half from Park Hills, Mo., regularly in order to attend classes.

Road warrior students tangle with traffic and spend hours at the wheel to learn at UMSL

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

Stuck on the highway in a complete slow traffic jam, where everyone behind the wheel anxiously waits to move an inch? Sound familiar? It probably does to the 90 percent of UM-St. Louis students who commute to campus.

Although the majority of UM-St. Louis students commute to campus, some students are extraordinary commuters, who live more than 50 miles away.

With over 16,000 students, being the largest university in the St. Louis area and the third largest university in Missouri, thousands of students chose UM-St. Louis to fulfill their academic needs and travel the extra distance on a daily basis.

While most students have residences located within a small proximity from campus, others spend an extra hour or two commuting from counties such as Lincoln, Franklin, Washington and Jefferson, not including those who live in Illinois.

Many UM-St. Louis commuters

spend about an hour a day or more on the road. For some, the time spent traveling to campus can be up to 10 percent of the time throughout their week.

Traffic congestion and road blocks can be either a time of frustration or a time of relaxation. Listening to a favorite radio station, morning talk show or catching the daily news on satellite radio are few activities that students do to kill time during their long commute.

Chris Fiedler, senior, business administration, drives about an hour and 15 minutes from Beaufort, Mo., located just outside of Union.

"I don't plan on moving closer," Fiedler said. "I have a family with kids in school and a job that is about a 20 minute commute in the opposite direction."

Fiedler said that he is finishing his degree that he began, when he lived closer to campus and that when his night class ends, he usually does not get home and get to bed until midnight.

Erin Shortland, junior, operations business administration and chemical engineering, drives approximately 50 miles to campus from Barnhart, Mo.

"The commute takes about 45 minutes, with no traffic and at very high speeds," Shortland said.

Shortland said that she chose to attend UM-St. Louis because there are not any other closer universities near her home and since her father received his degree in economics from UM-St. Louis, she heard about the school's great business reputation and the Joint Engineering program offered.

Curtis Lanning, junior, nursing, is a flex student, enrolled in mainly online courses at UM-St. Louis and takes one regular class at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Lanning said that when he does drive to school, the commute is about an hour and a half.

"I chose UMSL because everything that I wanted to do could be done online, except for graduating," Lanning said. "I chose UMKC because it would allow me to take one class without having to fully register and I can attend as a visiting student."

see LONGEST COMMUTE, page 7

Holiday gift ideas for the tech savvy

BY GENELLE JONES
Staff Writer

The official holiday season is underway and many people spend this time of the year in search of the perfect gifts for their family and friends. Shopping for gifts also brings obstacles such as hunting down the best sales and facing the bustling crowds at retail stores and at shopping malls.

The perfect holiday gifts in this tech savvy age are iPods, Blackberries, digital cameras and the latest video gaming systems.

These fast selling items can be a top choice for college students who are always on the move. With constant classes, meetings and assignments, students are starting to use these accessories to stay organized and listen to their own customized tunes in between classes.

The new iPod nano from Apple is not just a typical device that plays music. Sure it holds 15,000 songs, but it also stores 150 hours of videos and customized slideshows. It captures 25,000 photographs of friends and family and is a popular item on people's holiday list this season. The iPod nano comes in different colors and costs about \$199.

The latest edition from Blackberry is the Blackberry 7105T and the 8700 series. These cellular phones have Internet and E-mail capabilities, Blue Tooth technology, speakerphone, musical and photographic downloads and also has a sliding keyboard for easy text messaging and two-way communication.

In competition with the Blackberry comes the ultra-thin Black (and now in pink) Razr V3

from Motorola. The Razr V3 is less expensive and it only weighs 3.4 ounces. The Razr sells for about \$149 and some stores offer instant or mail-in rebates.

The Razr has the same capabilities as a Blackberry, but also has a voice driven menu, dual color screen, Mpeg4 video and a digital camera. For those thinking about studying abroad next semester, this cellular phone allows people to chat for hours with friends all over the world.

Going home for the holidays? Why not bring back warm memories of family with a digital camera. A digital camera is a small pocket size camera with optical zoom. One can capture and download photographs, then print them on a photo smart printer or take the camera card to a local drug store to print professional looking photos.

A new "generation of video gaming" is popular this season. One of the hottest items this season is the new X-Box 360 from Microsoft. It is a high performance video system with a wireless controller and headset for convenient fun.

The X-Box 360 is smaller and has better 3-D features than the first. It also has interchangeable color face plates and an MP3 player for easy downloading.

The Sony Playstation PSP is "entertainment without boundaries." It is a handheld video game with video, photo and musical capabilities. It is a compact system with 3D games and high quality graphics. Though generally a one person system, PSPs allow people to play against friends and strangers.



Gadgets like iPods make useful gifts for music lovers. The new iPod nano costs about \$199.

see TECH GIFTS page 7

STUDENT

EDITOR
MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

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the week's
best
bets

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Touhill PAC

Summer Study
Abroad Fair
Dec. 8 @ 11 a.m.
2nd Floor Rotunda
in the MSC

Come learn about more than a dozen summer programs offered by UM-St. Louis. Spend two to six weeks in a foreign country. Call 516-6497 for more info.

'Surviving' finals can be reality

BY BRIAN E. OLIVER
Staff Writer

Final exams are quickly approaching and for many students this can be a time of nervousness and anxiety.

With a few simple techniques, however, students can do relatively well on final exams and survive the experience without too many complications.

As far as studying and mentally preparing for finals, Prabhakar Rao, professor and chair of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, said one key to doing well is being organized.

"Organize your notes, as well as homework and midterm tests, to help you study for the final," Rao said. "Find out if your teacher provides any review sheets or sample exams for you to practice on."

Susan Brownell, associate professor and chair of the Department of Anthropology, said that practicing ahead of time is perhaps the best way to prepare for the test.

"If the professor hands out a study guide, prepare a brief answer in writing for every item on it. If the professor does not hand out a study guide, then develop your own one week before the exam by distilling everything you've learned down to a one to two page list. Use charts, diagrams, word lists, and other visual means of distilling ideas into a small space on the page. Then prepare a brief answer in writing for every item on it. Drill yourself by picking out an item on the study guide and stating the answer out loud without looking at your notes. This is best done together with classmates."

Brownell also added that another way for a student to succeed during finals is to ask the professor to review the study guide with the student prior to the exam.

"Take your study guide to the professor a few days before the exam and go over it with the professor, concentrating on items that are unclear. In my experience, this can take any student from an 'F' to at least a 'C' and usually a 'B.' This takes a lot of time on both your part and the part of your professor, but it produces the best result. A second-best alternative is to go over your study guide with the teaching assistant. Another option is to e-mail or

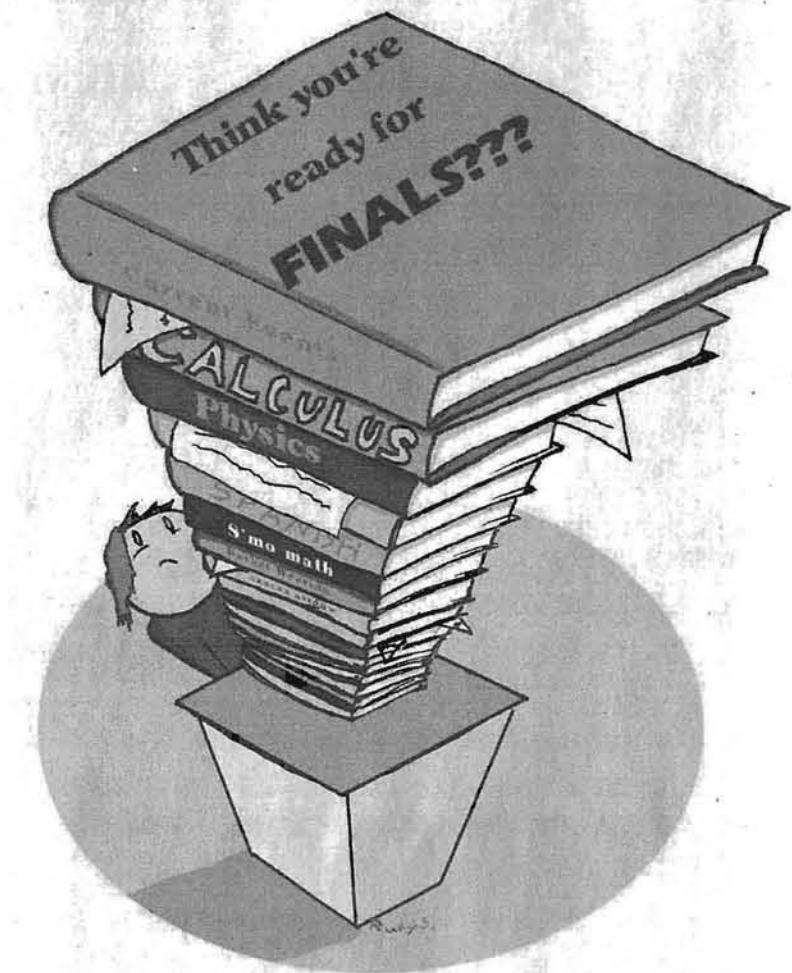


Illustration by Rudy Scoggins / The Current

call your professor with questions, but you will be more limited in the number of questions you can ask."

Studying for the test is just half of the battle, though, because physical and psychological issues also come into play in achieving good results.

Lori Tagger, UM-St. Louis Counseling Services psychologist and training coordinator, said that one thing students need to do in order to get a good grade is not only be prepared, but to also be realistic about what to expect.

"If you haven't studied all semester, don't expect to get an A on the finals."

Tagger said that it is very important for students to take care of themselves during this time. This includes eating right, being prepared by studying ahead of time and allowing themselves to have some down time so they do not burn themselves out.

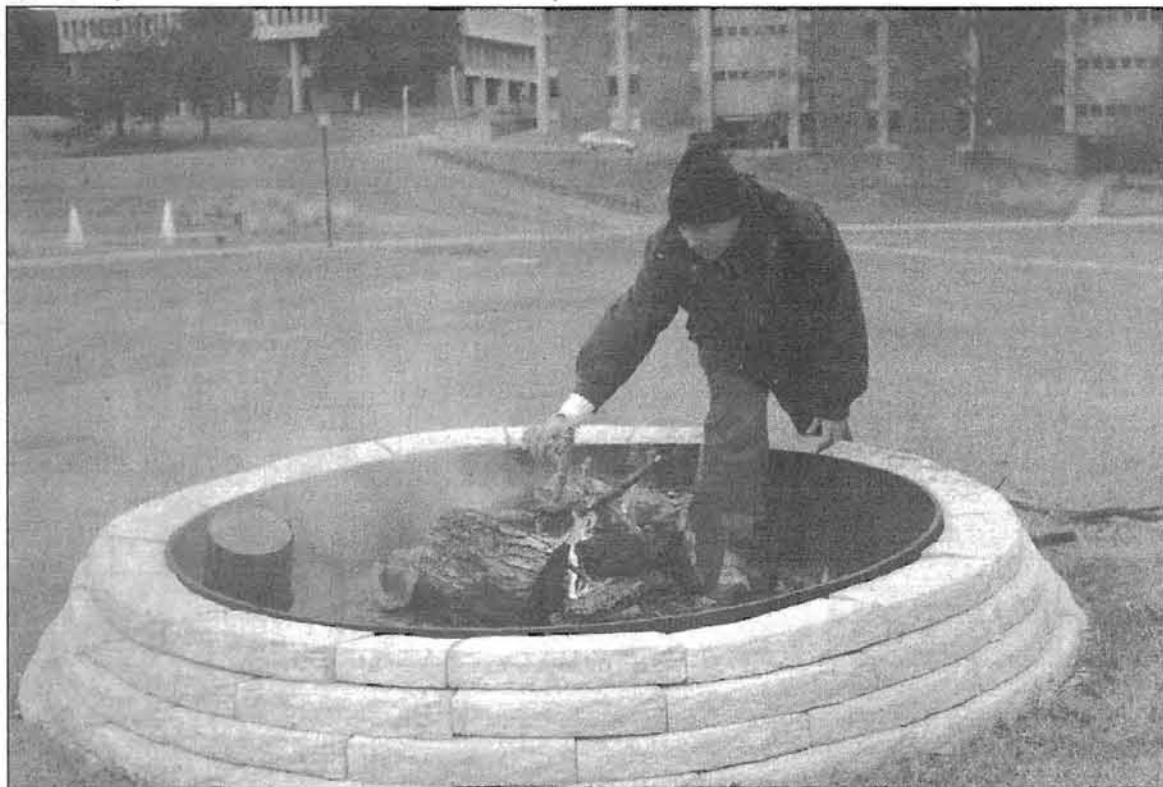
Tagger said that it is also imperative that students get a full night's sleep and

do not try to study the whole night before the final. She added that depriving oneself of two hours of sleep the night before a test will affect judgment in the same way as drinking an alcoholic beverage before the test would.

In preparation for finals week, Michelle Schmidt, Wellness Resource Center coordinator, said that Health Services will have a table set up in the Millennium Student Center on Wednesday, Dec. 7 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with additional information about how to survive final exam week without getting sick.

Experiencing some levels of anxiety and stress during final week is expected and Tagger said that students should not be surprised if they have some anxiety, stomach problems or trouble sleeping. If the symptoms get severe, however, students can call 516-5711 for an appointment with Counseling Services or 516-5671 for an appointment with University Health Services.

Come on baby, light my fire...



Adam D. Wiseman / The Current

Adam Kahn, junior, engineering, decided to make a fire outside of the MSC on Thursday. Kahn said he wanted to make the fire "because it was cold outside." He then added, "If somebody wants to feel the heat of my fire, they are welcome to it."

LONGEST COMMUTE, from page 6

As for Christina Johnson, senior, special education, who lives almost two hours away from campus, she tries to save money by carpooling with other students who live close to her.

"I live in Park Hills, which is close to Farmington, Mo. The reason I live this far, is because it is cheaper to live down here," Johnson said. "I travel to campus twice a week and I love the program and I feel more at home."

Johnson is not the only student who commutes from nearby Farmington.

Dely Masulit, senior, psychology, lives in Bonne Terre, near Farmington and 72 miles south of St. Louis.

Masulit drives to campus an hour and a half away from her home, twice a week.

"I decided to go to UMSL because there was not really much of a choice," Masulit said. "The only other college close by is Mineral Area College (MAC) and they do not offer as many diverse degrees and programs. They have had some video courses, that I took and they were able to count towards credit at UMSL."

The Campus Connections Student Directory lists student's E-mail addresses, phone numbers, cities and ZIP codes. Despite the fact that some students might be listed under their parent's place of residence, or might have moved during their time at UM-St. Louis, most of the information is accurate.

Marquand, Imperial, Elsberry, Ashland, Chillicothe, Smithton, Auxvasse, Owensville, Belton, Boonville, Dudley, Ste. Genevieve, Cuba and Herman, are cities in Missouri, that some students are listed

under. The directory also lists students who live in Illinois cities, such as Belleville, Wood River, Modesto, Swansea, Mascoutah, Waterloo, Elsah, New Baden, Red Bud and other further locations.

Because St. Louis is located between the Missouri and the Mississippi Rivers, students not only travel from far Missouri cities, but also from distant cities in Illinois.

Danielle Bratton, senior, communication, from Alton, Ill. said that when she has classes in the afternoon or has to be at school in the middle of the day it can take her longer than an hour to reach campus, during rush hour traffic.

"I take Highway 367, to Highway 270, then to 170 and finally to Highway 70," Bratton said. "My commute is all highway mileage."

Like Bratton, JaNeice Giesler, senior, communication, commutes from the Illinois side of the river.

"It takes usually about an hour to get to school from my house in O'Fallon, Illinois," Giesler said. "For awhile I lived by Scott Air Force Base and it sometimes took longer."

Giesler said that after moving from Utah, she had planned on attending Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville (SIUE), but UM-St. Louis was quick to help enroll her and transfer her credits.

Numerous students who drive a far distance to UM-St. Louis have things in common. The lack of colleges nearby their homes and the variety of degrees and programs that UM-St. Louis offers are reasons that they believe the farther commute is valuable.

Longest Commutes to UMSL

- Park Hills, Mo.
- 76.7 miles
- 1 hour, 27 minutes
- Bonne Terre, Mo.
- 70.7 miles
- 1 hour, 17 minutes
- Beaufort, Mo.
- 68.0 miles
- 1 hour, 16 minutes
- Barnhart, Mo.
- 36.5 miles
- 43 minutes
- O'Fallon, Ill.
- 26.2 miles
- 34 minutes
- Alton, Ill.
- 22.3 miles
- 27 minutes

Source: www.mapquest.com

AIDS AWARENESS, from page 1

Haberer said that she believes that the quilt display had the most impact on students.

"People's souls are on the quilts. Each individual panel was put together by families and friends who had lost a loved one from AIDS," she said.

The AIDS Memorial Quilt that covered the railings and banisters in the MSC Rotunda is the largest quilt display in the Midwest.

Besides the combined quilts, a poster presentation sponsored by PRIZM student organization, the GLBT Diversity Center and Project ARK was displayed, showing facts and statistics about AIDS.

On Wednesday, Nov. 30, the

American Red Cross, St. Louis Effort for AIDS and the St. Louis University HIV Vaccine Research Project held a panel discussion to students and staff describing how HIV has impacted and how it has tremendously affected the community.

"Missing the Magic: HIV/AIDS in Our Communities" was co-sponsored by the Office of Student Life, the Black Student Nurses Association and the GLBT Diversity Center.

Members involved in PRIZM and Project ARK held an information table, handing out fliers about HIV and gave out free ribbons and condoms on Thursday, Dec. 1.

Students, faculty and staff gathered

in the Pilot House, for the last event of the week, "World AIDS Day Memorial." Musical performances, including a choir, a candle-lit vigil and short presentations were some of the highlights done to honor those who have died from this epidemic. Visitors paid their respects, by sitting in silence or by praying, during the memorial service.

An "Art for AIDS Reception" will be held on Dec. 6, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., at Gallery Visio. This reception will open the "Art for AIDS Exhibit," held from Dec. 6 until Dec. 16. The exhibit will showcase works of art completed by various people who AIDS has had an impact on.

TECH GIFTS, from page 6

Another gift option for college students traveling back and forth to school might be a gas card.

"With the constant rise and fall of gas prices a gas card is terrific and necessary," said Latanya Carouthers, junior, criminal justice.

During the cold and flu season it is easy to be inside and in front of the

television. Blockbuster Video is offering its Game and Movie Pass for the second year in a row. This could be a great choice for those living on campus.

Anyone with a valid Blockbuster video card can purchase a game pass for \$21.99 and receive unlimited gaming for a month. A movie pass can be

purchased at \$27.99 for two movies out at one time for the entire month. Movies and games can be swapped out for maximum viewing and gaming.

An AMC movie gift card will not only give students something to do during the holiday break, but could provide an inexpensive night of fun and entertainment.

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Nirvana's new
'Sliver' box set
makes unique
corporate gift

BY ZACH MEYER
Music Critic

It would seem that Courtney Love is at it again. With "Sliver: The Best of Box" freshly in stores, Nirvana is once more under the public's eye, even with the Nirvana box set, "When the Lights Go Out" which was released in 2004.

Between releasing the single "You Know You're Right" and the box set, many fans and rock critics scorned Love for giving the okay on making Cobain's private stash public. Although the set proved to be scratchy, sloppy, and at times tedious, it was also an enlightening experience to hear the slightly-more jammed out version of "Aneurysm" and the rugged, early take on "Drain You."

Without sounding overly conspiratorial, the only reason Geffen Records and Love would put a "The Best Of" box set out, conveniently right before Christmas, would be to make money. However, this capitalistic ploy still doesn't totally ruin the "Sliver" experience.

The tune entitled "Spank Thru" is an endearing ode to masturbation, and one of the only three songs that weren't on "When the Lights Go Out." Nevertheless, hardcore fans are probably familiar with the song since it did appear on their live album, "From the Muddy Banks of the Wishkah."

Other than that, the other two "new" songs on "Sliver" are strikingly mediocre. The 1990 studio-recorded version of "Slappy" is interesting but only if the listener knows the song's background. In 1993 the song appeared on a charity compilation, "No Alternative," but wasn't listed on the track listing.

The pros and cons of "Sliver" put the buyer in a hard place. If you already own "When the Lights Go Out," then do not bother with "Sliver" unless you are a hardcore fan that must purchase everything put out with the Nirvana label on it. On the other hand, if you have not bought the box set and you're short on cash, "Sliver" is definitely an appealing item, or perhaps a good Christmas gift.

Ultimately, for anyone interested in Nirvana rarities but has not had the time or the money to check them out, "Sliver" is perfect. The live version of "Heartbreaker" and "Floyd the Barber" give a better insight to what Nirvana would sound like on an average day in their basement. Furthermore, while the acoustic/solo "All Apologies" is also on "When the Lights Go Out," it tops the version on "In Utero."

However, keep in mind that Love is essentially trying to sell her dead husband's name and finally, if it's truly the best of "When the Lights Go Out," where are tracks like "Aneurysm" and "I Hate Myself and I Want to Die?" Indispensable tracks like these belong on every Nirvana rarity album. The fact that "Sliver" misses out on these tracks greatly reduces the value of this otherwise, ho-hum album.

Winter Movie Preview



"Chronicles of Narnia"



"The Producers"



"Touch the Sound"



"King Kong"



"Memoir of a Geisha"



"Family Stone"

Hollywood Holiday

Winter brings witches, producers, gorillas



"Syriana"

BY CATE MARQUIS
A&E Editor

The holiday season brings not only snow and shopping but the biggest movies of the year. The last weeks of the year are when Hollywood rolls out its biggest, Oscar-hopeful movies. Let's take a sneak peek at new films for December into January, week by week, but remember, in holiday movie releases, all is subject to change. We will wrap up with a few films that are being released elsewhere by the end of the year, which we might get to see eventually here in the Big Flyover.

December 9:

The big release this week is "Syriana," a complex geopolitical thriller centered in the Middle East and all about the oil, as they say. Big name stars include George Clooney, Matt Damon, Jeffrey Wright, Chris Cooper, and others. Written and directed by Stephen Gaghan, who wrote the screenplay for "Traffic."

For families and kids, the big

release this week is "Chronicles of Narnia" This is the live-action film adaptation of the first book of C. S. Lewis' popular, children's fantasy series. Starring Tilda Swinton as the White Witch, adults will see the Christian themes in this fantasy series, although kids may just be enchanted with the story. It is expected to be a big hit with groups that flocked to "Passion of the Christ."

An important and chilling documentary film also debuts locally this week. "Protocols of Zion" is award-winning director Marc Levin's personal inquiry into the post-9/11 re-emergence of an old forgery that claims to be a plan for Jews to control the world. Repeatedly discredited and an inspiration for Hitler, "Protocols of the Elders of Zion" has re-surfaced and has been circulating among Muslim extremists groups after 9/11, along with false rumors that no Jews died in the attacks. Levin talks to a wide range of people about this document and about rising religious and ethnic intolerance. He even finds a St. Louis connection. A real must-see film

for everyone.

For indie film fans, the Tivoli Theatre will be showing "Loggerheads," inspired by a true story. An award winner at Outfest 2005, the film is a story of an adoption triangle of birth mother, son and adoptive parents. The film stars Tess Harper, Bonnie Hunt, Michael Kelly, Kip Pardue and Chris Sarandon. It is set for a one-week run.

Not opening here so far: The comedy, "The Kid and I," did not open here but might later in the month. Directed by Penelope Spheeris and written by and starring Tom Arnold.

December 14:

Big releases include the much-anticipated Peter Jackson movie remake of "King Kong." Following his hugely successful Lord of the Rings series of films, New Zealander Jackson turned to a childhood favorite. This version has Peter Jackson's signature great special effects, but a different story twist, a different wiser ape, and a leading lady who does more than scream. The

movie trailer already running looks great. Stars Jack Black, Naomi Watts and Adrien Brody.

December 16:

Another big release, one with a riskier topic, is director Ang Lee's emotionally powerful and visually beautiful adaptation of Annie Proulx's short story, "Broke Back Mountain." The film focuses on the life-long bond that is formed between two very young ranch hands during one summer in a high mountain sheep pasture in 1963, when isolation and their growing friendship lead them into sexual embrace. The two part ways, marry and have children, but the connection between them remains. Stars Heath Ledger, Jake Gyllenhaal and Anne Hathaway.

"Touch the Sound" is a visual, musical treat of a documentary about Grammy-winning Scottish percussionist Evelyn Glennie, a gifted musician who is also nearly deaf. The documentary has the usual interviews but also uses Glennie's music as the soundtrack to a series of delightful,

hypnotic, visual tone poems. Directed by Thomas Riedelsheimer, who also did "Rivers and Tides: Andy Goldsworthy Working with Time." Scheduled for a one week run at the Tivoli, starting Dec. 16.

One holiday-themed film is the comedy "Family Stone," about bringing the girlfriend home to meet the not-so-welcoming family. Stars Dermot Mulroney, Sarah Jessica Parker and Claire Danes.

December 21:

The holiday season has to have some light and silly movies, and of course, remakes. The family-friendly, slapstick funny "Yours, Mine and Ours" was the first remake out of the gate for the season but it is followed this week by the more grown-up comedy remake "Fun With Dick and Jane" about a middle-class couple who turn to robbery to conceal their money troubles. Stars Tea Leoni and Jim Carrey.

see **WINTER MOVIES**, page 11

Concert Review

The Suicide Machines rock the Creepy Crawl

BY MABEL SUEN
NightLife Editor

Three days later, and my ears are still ringing. Before punk/ska pioneers The Suicide Machines hit the stage on Nov. 29, several opening bands kept the evening alive with an incredible variety of music with punk influences.

Hailing from Alton, Ill., the opening band The Red Handed Bandits entertained the audience not only with their unique, organ-inspired progressive punk rock songs but with a series of hijinks as well. At the beginning of their set, a questionable looking guy clad in a studded leather jacket with beer in hand made his way through the crowd. To unsuspecting onlookers, he appeared to be just a random fan that had lost his way and somehow ended up on stage.

However, this proved not to be the case as he grabbed the microphone and the band started playing their first song, a hokey tune somewhere between a polka and disco. Just as I began questioning their musical motives, they transitioned into a significantly different punk style song.

They filled out the rest of their set with likeable sloppy punk songs complete with plenty of plastic props such as a giant ax, a skull and a rela-



Mike Sherwin/ The Current

Suicide Machines, a band from Detroit, played Tuesday night at the Creepy Crawl in downtown St. Louis. The band is promoting its new album "War Profiteering Is Killing Us All."

tively harmless bomb. The slightly intoxicated singer kept the audience on its toes, sometimes diving into the crowd himself and even accidentally exposing his genitalia at one point.

Next on stage was ForDireLifeSake, a melodic hardcore band from Detroit, Mich. Its music of epic proportions consisted of thudding bass lines and rapid drumming

highlighted by what seemed to be two lead guitars that shredded solos constantly between torrential riffs and slow driving melodies.

Their vocalist swaggered tirelessly

ly across stage every 10 seconds, crying incoherent yet commanding lyrics, establishing an integral part of their in-your-face sound. So in-your-face, in fact, that he poked me in the eye during their first song because I was standing too close to the stage.

All members of the band were lean, and it seemed that they were built that way for a reason. Somehow managing to synchronize jumps while dexterously fingering fret boards, the guitarists played notes at alarming speeds. Meanwhile, some audience members crowded beneath them doing a sort of underhanded spirit-finger motion, looking ridiculously like small baby birds begging to be fed regurgitated hammer-ons and harmonics.

The next band was Whole Wheat Bread, a band I looked forward to seeing again. At their last visit to the Creepy, one of the band members threw up on stage in the middle of one of their songs but was having too much of a good time to stop playing.

Shortly after spewing out some skillfully spoken word at the start of their set, the Ecco brand clothing wearing, chain adorned, punk rock guitarist of Whole Wheat Bread declared, "We now interrupt your regularly scheduled program of white people."

see **SUICIDE MACHINES**, page 9

Classy performances fill winter break at the PAC

BY LAURA AYERS
Staff Writer

If you find that you can not keep away from campus after finals are done and gone, here is a list of things that will be at the Performing Arts Center that you can indulge in.

The Ambassadors of Harmony will have five performances of their annual Christmas show, entitled "Holiday Greetings," at the PAC. The performances will also feature the Gas House Gang - International Champion Quartet and the Vocal Spectrum - International Finalist Quartet. The a cappella group will perform Friday, Dec. 9 at 8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 10 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 11 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$20 to \$28.

MADco, the Modern American Dance Company, is also performing that weekend in the Touhill Lee Theatre. They will perform Friday, Dec. 9 at 8 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 10 at 8 p.m. Ticket prices are \$20 for the general public and \$16 for students.

On Dec. 12, the Genesis Jazz Project, working with the UM-St. Louis' Community Jazz Band, will hold a free concert in the Lee

Theatre. The show starts at 7:30 p.m. For more information on these performances or to order tickets, visit the Touhill website at www.touhill.org or you can also call the Touhill Ticket office at 314-516-4949.

Of course, some of us prefer our winter breaks to be as far away from campus as possible. If this is the case, you might want to check out what is happening at the Fox Theatre.

Starting Dec. 6, Dance St. Louis will be presenting "Riverdance" at the Fox Theatre. This show full of traditional Irish song and dance returns to the Fox after traveling around the world. "Riverdance" runs until Dec. 11 with nightly showings at 8 p.m. There is also a matinee at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 8 and matinees at 2 p.m. on Dec. 10 and 11.

Next up for the Fox is the famous "Christmas Carol." Dec. 17 through Dec. 19 indulge in one of the most popular Christmas stories. Also at the Fox is the "Andy Williams Christmas Show." A delight for all ages, there is only one performance on Dec. 20 at 8 p.m. Get some holiday cheer with Andy Williams.

After Christmas, you can see "Annie" at the Fox Theatre. Running Dec. 27 through Jan. 1, this classic



Photo courtesy madco.org

MADco will perform at the Touhill PAC on Dec. 9 and 10.

musical is sure to light you up after the rush of the holidays.

And from the author of "The Vagina Monologues" comes "The Good Body," a look at why women throughout the world feel the need to change their appearance. Eve Ensler brings "The Good Body" to St. Louis after a successful run on Broadway. Do not miss the hilarious and inspiring performances of Eve Ensler at the Edison Theatre, Jan. 3 through Jan. 8.

For information about prices and to buy tickets, visit the Fox Theatre website at www.fabulousfox.com.

Philharmonic proves a holiday cure at Touhill

BY LAURA AYERS
Staff Writer

At this time of year, it is normal to become bogged down with massive amounts of homework and studying. Finals are almost here and the holiday rush is also exhausting. I was feeling the strain when I went to see the St. Louis Philharmonic Orchestra this past Friday evening but for a little over two hours, I had a break from all of the worries and I found comfort in peace in the beautiful music.

On Friday, Dec. 2, the St. Louis Philharmonic Orchestra performed its annual Holiday Pops Concert at the Touhill Performing Arts Center. Performing along with the orchestra was the St. Louis Women's Chorale and the Gateway Men's Chorus. Together these three groups gave a wonderful performance that will not be soon forgotten. The conductor, Robert Hart Baker, has a magnificent stage presence that demanded the full of attention of the audience as well as his musicians.

The evening started with a medley of Christmas songs from around the world including, "O Tannenbaum," "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly," "O Sanctissima," and "Go Tell it on the Mountain."

Next followed arrangements of "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," "The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire)," "Greensleeves (What Child is This?)," and the "Trepak" from "The Nutcracker."

Afterwards, the two choirs joined in for two suites that combined a number of familiar Christmas carols and songs. "The Many Moods of Christmas" was a delight for the sold-out audience. We heard many popular songs like "Silent Night," "Patapan," "The First Noel," and "Deck the Halls."

That concluded the first half of the evening. After intermission, we were treated to a new arrangement of "O Holy Night." The orchestra's conductor referred to this version as "O Holy Night on steroids." The choirs also returned with wonderful arrangements of "Ding Dong Merrily on High" and "What Sweeter Music."

Along with all of the wonderful, traditional carols that we had heard so far that evening, they had a surprise for us.

Despite the fact that I loved the movie "Home Alone" when it came on in my childhood, I had never paid attention to the music being played in the background.

I was very surprised to learn that was John Williams who wrote the score to "Home Alone." I was even more surprised to learn that the three main songs in that movie actually had words. The songs are "Somewhere in my Memory," "Star of Bethlehem," and "Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas." These are wonderful songs that most of us did not realize that we were missing.

When people tell me that they own the soundtrack to "Home Alone" now, I will have to force my eyes not to roll back into my head and congratulate them on owning beautiful Christmas music that is highly unappreciated.

Next on the program were two novelty songs that have long been popular with American audiences. You cannot go to a Christmas concert, whether school or professional one, and not hear one or both of these songs. The St. Louis Philharmonic gave wonderful instrumental performances of "Frosty the Snowman" and "Sleigh Ride." "Sleigh Ride" has always been one of my particular favorites and I was not disappointed this time. The principal trumpet, Mark Frederickson, certainly gave a convincing horse whinny, far better than my high school band peers did.

The night ended with the annual St. Louis Philharmonic Orchestra singing along. The audience, led by the St. Louis Women's Chorale and Gateway Men's Chorus, participated full heartedly. We sang Irving Berlin's "White Christmas," "Hark the Herald Angels Sing," and "Holiday Greetings," a medley of "Deck the Halls," "Auld Lang Syne" and "Jingle Bells."

It was a stirring performance for everyone involved and I can not wait until next year to see it again. An A+ would never handed out more deservedly. I highly recommend for any music lover to attend the St. Louis Philharmonic's next performance Feb. 10, 2006.

Have a cool yule

BY JASON WENDLETON
Staff Writer

Well guess what? It is that time once again, the holiday scramble. If you are like me, you wait until the last possible minute to do your shopping. And why not? The Internet has taken much of the holiday hassle out of last minute shopping. There is, however, still that old problem of what to buy. As an avid music fan, I recommend the gift of music. Music is the perfect gift because it is something almost everyone enjoys year round. However, navigating the sonic minefield that most music stores have devolved into can be a problem. Thanks to MTV and Clear Channel, it

is nearly impossible to find decent music for yourself, let alone your friends and family! With that in mind, I humbly offer these holiday gift giving suggestions.

Hip-Hop & Rap: Does that person on your list like witty, intelligent, genre bending rap? Are they a fan of Outkast and Gorillaz? Then One Block Radius's new CD "Long Story Short" is the perfect gift. Fronted by ex-Scapegoat Wax rhyme master Marty James, One Block Radius is a brilliant fusion of rap, hip-hop, and rock. With standout cuts like "Up in the Hills" and the club friendly "Black Mercedes" (which is currently tied with "Feel Good Inc." as the best song I can not

get out of my head), this CD delivers.

Pop: Okay, now do not freak out, I am not talking Backstreet Boys ... for that discriminating bubble gum fan I recommend "Intensive Care" by Robbie Williams. Not familiar with Mr. Williams? Despite his astounding international fame, Robbie has not been able to break into the American music scene. "Intensive Care" is his latest and arguably best album to date. The CD is a throwback to the great pop-rock and dance music of the '80s. Switching from loud and brash to quiet and sentimental, "Intensive Care" is a fun, but adult pop record. It is well worth the import price.

Rock: Fans of bands with that "classy"

sound would be wise to check out "Aha Shake Heartbreak" by the Kings of Leon. The Kings' second disc is a blend of garage rock and southern rock (think Lynyrd Skynyrd meets The Strokes). The music is hot and hooky, the lyrics are both literary and dirty. In short, this CD is perfect for that loveable deviant on your list. Or for a slightly more warm and fuzzy rock CD (for the more behaved rock fan on your list), get "Apollo Sunshine" by Boston rockers Apollo Sunshine. Similar to The Beatles and The Pixies, Apollo Sunshine blend melody and exotic keyboards into something that is almost, but not quite, psychedelic. Any serious student of rock will appreciate the gift of Apollo Sunshine.

Country: Recently the Country music scene has seen a shift, from the highly polished sounds of Shania Twain to the more back-to-basics sound of Gretchen Wilson. With this trend in mind, why not give the gift of classic country? "The Legend of Johnny Cash" would make a great gift for any young country fan. Sure, this recently issued compilation is unnecessary (a plethora of Cash compilations already exist), and most likely a greedy tie-in with the Cash biopic "Walk the Line," but this CD still makes a good gift for those country fans lacking Johnny Cash in their collections. As greatest hits CDs go, this one is a winner. All the hits are here, from the early material all the way to his final recording, the painfully honest "Hurt."

Overall, 2005 was a very good year for music fans. Many acts (old and new) put out a great crop of records making this holiday season a breeze for us lazy shoppers. The Rolling Stones, Paul McCartney, Gorillaz, Kanye West, Foo Fighters, Cold Play, Garth Brooks, Franz Ferdinand, Madonna, and Fiona Apple ... all put out new releases this year, so get off your duff and go shopping.

SUICIDE MACHINES, from page 8

Blurring the line between stereotypical musicians in different genres, Whole Wheat Bread combines the upbeat, poppy punk of Blink 182 with the attitude of N.W.A. Playing a high energy set full of palm muted power chords and even a song with an Irish sounding motif, the band got the crowd going wild.

Next to entertain was Stretch Armstrong, a color-coordinated band that categorizes itself as "hardcore punk rock." While the musicians were talented and their sound solid, I found their music a bit generic and sometimes even overdone (not to mention lacking in the stretchy toy department.) It was obvious, however, that they had a lot of fans in their following, evidenced by the constant fists pumping in the air and exposed pit stains.

Finally, came the moment that most everybody there had been waiting for. The Suicide Machines dominated the stage, opening up with a song from their first full-length album, "Destruction by Definition." While they played several old favorites such as "New Girl," "Hey" and "Break the Glass" from their earliest works, they also incorporated songs into their set from all four of the rest of their albums,

including their recently released, "W/Profiteering is Killing Us All."

Containing highly political messages such as "Free market trade will destroy itself. / The way that we live will cease to exist. / All that we know will come crashing down / As Wall Street's bottom drops out," from the song "Capitalist Suicide," the band successfully melded the intensity of metal and the syncopation of ska together in many songs off its newest album.

Delivering a message and cranking out their songs with as much energy as anyone could manage, the Suicide Machines got everybody in the club moving whether they wanted to or not. Flawlessly recreating favorites for fans to hear, the band brought the hard rocking rhythms from wall to wall.

If not for the stage, it would have been difficult differentiating between the band and the audience. Several overzealous fans had climbed their way to the stage while the singer made his way into the pits with his microphone during their much applauded first encore. As the band exited, the singer declared the show the best on their tour so far. Judging from all the lost shoes, busted lips and bloody noses I encountered, I can see why.

JOHN PRINE

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SPORTS

EDITOR

LINDSEY BARRINGER
Sports Editor

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Upcoming Games

Women's Basketball

Dec. 10
VS.
Missouri-Rolla
1 p.m.

Men's Basketball

Dec. 10
VS.
Missouri-Rolla
3 p.m.

* At the Dec. 10 games there will be a contest for a free parking pass for Winter Semester 2006.

Riverwomen end five game winning streak

Perfect season stymied by ice cold shooting against Southern Indiana

BY **ROBBIE STONE**
Staff Writer

The UM-St. Louis women's basketball team saw their perfect season come to an end on Saturday afternoon with a frustrating 58-52 loss to Southern Indiana.

The Riverwomen opened the season in stellar fashion, winning their first five contests. Their 5-0 start marks the first time in two decades the team has begun a season with five straight victories. With the loss, the Riverwomen fall to 5-1 on the year.

Ice cold shooting was on display from both teams in the first half with each side shooting under 30 percent from the field. The action went back and forth early on with Southern Indiana using an aggressive full court press. Both teams played stingy defense while creating numerous turnovers.

"I think we handled the press pretty well; many of our turnovers came from our own mistakes," Head Coach Lee Buchanan said.

The Screaming Eagles managed to stray four points ahead midway through the first half before the Riverwomen closed the gap to one point with a little over four minutes to go before the break. Southern Indiana scored the final five points of the half to take a 19-13 advantage into the locker room.

The momentum swung shortly the Riverwomen's way at the beginning of the second half. Jennifer Martin, battling inside on the offensive boards, bounced in a shot off the glass as she was fouled on her way to a three-point play, cutting the deficit to three points at 19-16.

Southern Indiana, however, did not let the lead slip. The Screaming Eagles widened the gap to eight points at 28-20 with 14 minutes to play. The Riverwomen struck back with a three-pointer by Taylor Gagliano, reducing the gap to just three points. UM-St.

Louis could not keep the momentum going as free throw trouble proved to plague them when they needed the points most.

"Our missed free throws are what really killed tonight," said Buchanan. "The difference was we missed too many free throws and they came up with some unbelievable clock beating shots. We've had some good luck on our side so far this season. Didn't have it tonight."

Southern Indiana finished the game off on an 8-2 run aided by drilling 13 out of their last 14 free throws for the 58-52 win.

"They were a very physical team with a lot of speed. The most physical team we've played all year," said Courtney Watts, sophomore guard.

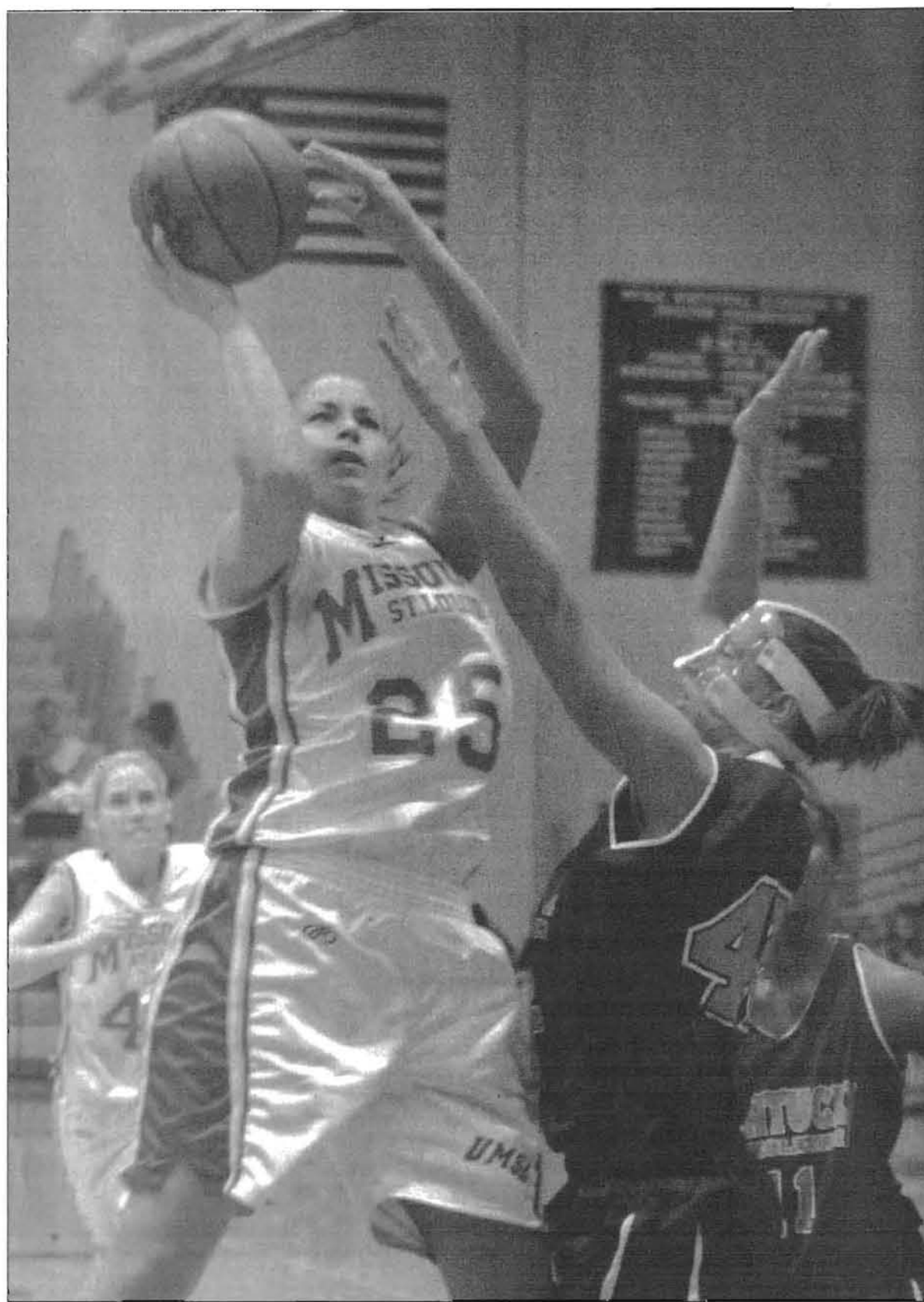
Taylor Gagliano, sophomore forward, ed UM-St. Louis with 14 points while Jennifer Martin scored 12 points and grabbed eight rebounds. Watts also contributed 10 points in the contest.

"We knew going into the game they were a very athletic team. They play a great press and run game," Buchanan said. "They rebound very well. They out-rebounded us tonight and that very rarely happens. They have good speed. They handle the ball well. They're a good team. Their playing style definitely hurt us tonight."

On Thursday Dec. 1, the Riverwomen overcame a 12-point deficit to pull off an impressive win against Kentucky Wesleyan College in their first conference game of the season. UM-St. Louis outscored the Panthers 26-6 over the final eight minutes for the win.

The Riverwomen bolted out to an early lead in the first half scoring 15 out of the first 19 points just seven minutes into the game. Courtney Watts commenced the scoring with a three-pointer and her hot hand remained early on, sparking the UM-St. Louis offense.

Kentucky Wesleyan answered back, however, with a 21-7 run through the latter part of the second



Kevin Ottley/The Current

The Riverwomen came out Thursday night with guns firing against the Kentucky Wesleyan Panthers. Center Taylor Gagliano (pictured) was an exceptional nuisance for the Panther defense.

half while taking their first lead of the game with just over three minutes until the break.

The Panthers kept their offense rolling into the second half with 12 unanswered points early on to widen the margin to 12 with time running out. At that point, the Riverwomen had seen enough and began to dominate, outscoring their opponents 26-6 over the final eight minutes. Watts and Martin combined to score 18 of the 26 points during the stretch, capped by

clutch shooting down the stretch from Watts behind the free throw line.

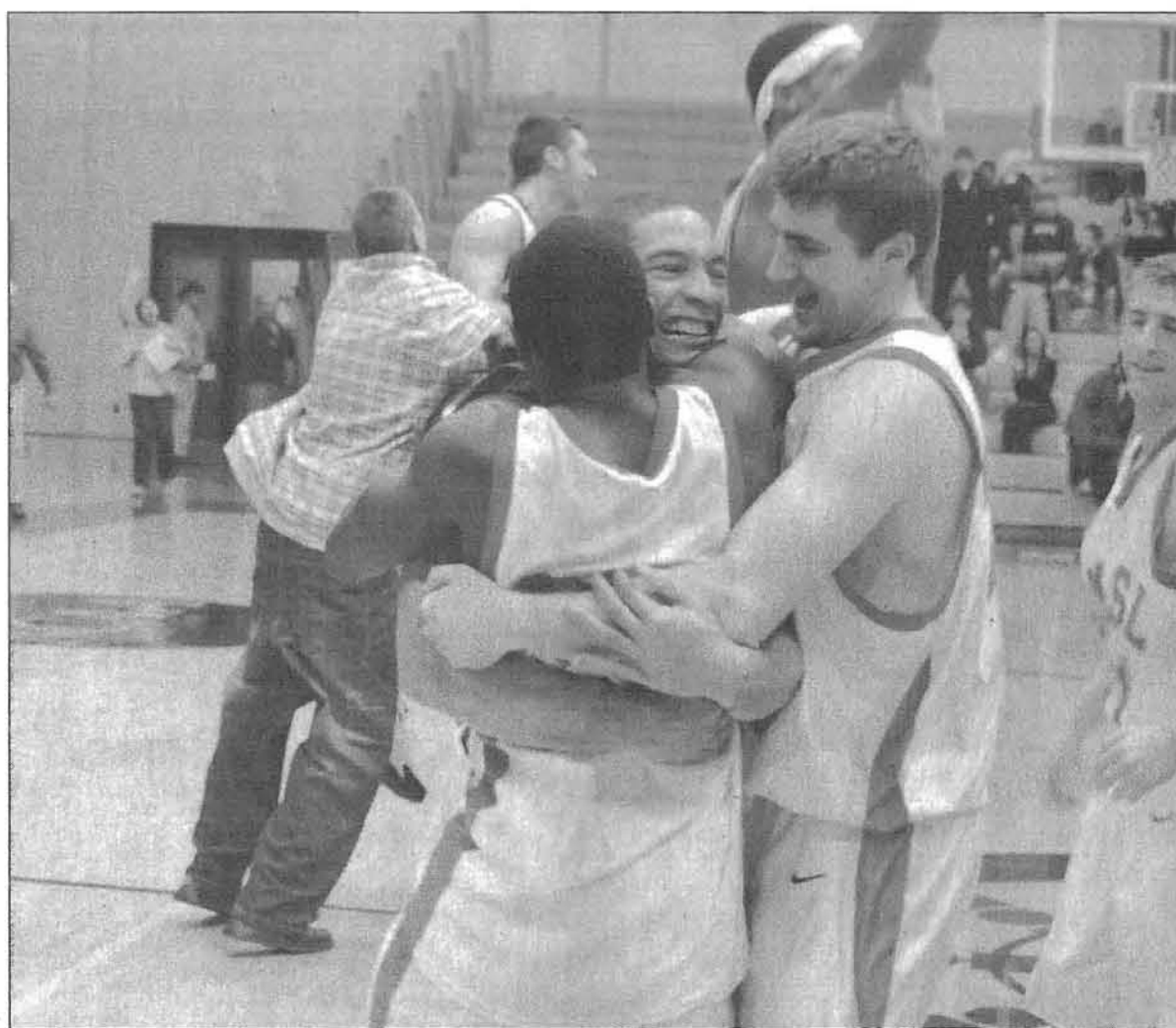
"We were real excited since this was our first conference game. Everyone picked up their game," said Nikki Jerome, senior guard. "Our team defense in the second half is what won the game for us."

Watts led all scorers with 18 points. Amanda Miller scored 12 points at the forward position while Martin governed play in the paint, collecting 11 points, nine rebounds and five blocked

shots.

The Riverwomen take a 5-1 record into their next contest on the road this Tuesday against non conference opponents Oakland State in Indiana. The team's next home game will be Saturday Dec. 10 at 1 p.m. against the University of Missouri-Rolla just prior to the men's game.

"We have much more confidence than we did last year," Jerome said. "We're really meshing well as a group."



Kevin Ottley/The Current

Sherome Cole, Jonathan Griffin and David Ward embrace in jubilation after giving unbeaten Southern Indiana their first defeat of the season. The Rivermen put on a spectacular display of offense and defense Saturday afternoon, lifting their overall record to 5-1.

Men's basketball takes first loss of the season

But Rivermen get back into gear vs. S. Indiana

BY **LAQUAN FUSE**
Staff Writer

The UM-St. Louis Rivermen ended their four-game winning streak against Kentucky Wesleyan on Thursday with a final score of 69-65, but rebounded on Saturday against fourth-ranked Southern Indiana.

The Kentucky Wesleyan Panthers started the game on Thursday with a 6-0 run and held onto the lead at the half. The Rivermen went into the half trailing by six with the score 43-35.

The Rivermen pulled within one after a three-pointer from Slaten with 13:52 left in the game. With the score 48-47, the Rivermen lost momentum and went on a 13 minute scoring drought that allowed the Panthers to go on a 9-0 run.

The Rivermen continued to cut away at the Panther's lead. After another three-pointer by Slaten the Rivermen brought the score to 63-61 with only 2:40 left in the game. The Rivermen stayed close but were not able to gain the lead as the Panthers won the game 69-65.

Slaten scored a team high 22 points

(8-14) and was 4-7 from behind the three point line.

David Ward went 6-7 from the free throw line and ended the game with 16 points. Ward led the Rivermen with seven rebounds.

Jonathan Griffin scored 13 points (4-15) in the game and shot 4-8 from the free throw line. Griffin ended the game with six rebounds.

UM-St. Louis defeated fourth-ranked Southern Indiana on Saturday. UM-St. Louis won the game with a final score 87-83. With the win, the men's basketball team record stands at (5-1, 1-1 GLVC). UM-St. Louis is currently ranked third in the Great Lakes Valley Conference West Division.

Griffin scored a season high 30 points as he helped the Rivermen win their first conference game of the season. Griffin would end the game a perfect 3-3 from behind the three point line. Griffin also had five rebounds in the game.

Nathan Whitaker grabbed a team high eight rebounds and ended the game with 10 points. Troy Slaten scored 17 points in the game.

NBA dress code might not help



BY **LINDSEY BARRINGER**
Sports Editor

Since the NBA season began, there has been a lot of talk about the new dress code put into action by Basketball Commissioner David Stern and approved by the players' league. The question remains, will it prove to be effective throughout the season and in the upcoming ones? And to answer there is no answer.

The dress code requires players to dress in "Business Casual" attire whenever the players are engaged in team or league business. The players must wear long or short sleeve shirts that can have a collar or a turtleneck and or a sweater. They also must wear

dress slacks, khakis or dress jeans. Appropriate shoes must be worn which do not include sneakers, sandals, flip-flops or work boots. Items that are not appropriate include sleeveless shirts, jerseys, t-shirts, headgear not needed for media communication, sunglasses inside and chains or medallions over their clothes. If a player is at a game and not in uniform, he must wear a sport coat.

But can all the problems of the NBA be fixed by instilling a "dress code?" Why did Stern want this? Is it because the owners have lost their ability to communicate with the play-

ers? Possibly. Will the attendance ratings increase and get back to the Michael Jordan era? Possibly.

The NBA teams are trying to present an image but have fallen short of their goal. The image has not been proactive. Take a look at last season's Pistons-Pacers brawl. Does it make sense to look at the dress of Ron Artest to determine problems? Is that logical to think that just because he is required to wear nicer clothes, more people will come to the games and his attitude will change?

I can't say that the new dress code will hinder the NBA, but will it help

it? I can only look to the players for the answers. Notorious showman Allen Iverson thinks the dress code is wrong and the players shouldn't be judged by their clothes. But on the other hand, many players like Andrei Kirilenko of the Jazz think it's reasonable. Kirilenko says it himself, they are businessmen and businessmen wear coats and suits.

It will definitely be an interesting season to watch the NBA. Only time will tell if the new dress code brings up the ratings and changes the entire notion of the NBA. We'll see how many more "suits" are in the stands.

Documentary ‘Protocols of Zion’ shows old lies never die

BY CATE MARQUIS
A&E Editor

Documentary filmmaker Marc Levin first heard about the re-emergence of an old, long-disproved forgery in a conversation with an Egyptian cabbie in New York shortly after 9/11. The cabbie told Levin that no Jews had died in the 9/11 attacks because they had been warned not to go to work in the twin towers that day. The cabbie told him it was all written in the book “Protocols of the Elders of Zion.”

Of course, Jews did die in the 9/11 attacks and “Protocols of the Elders of Zion” is an early twentieth century forgery that purports to outline a plan by Jewish leaders to control the world. Director Marc Levin, a secular Jew who grew up in New Jersey and now lives in New York, was startled and intrigued by the taxi driver’s claims. Levin set out to make a film about why this old fake had resurfaced, and what that might mean for a post 9/11 world.

The result is his documentary film, “Protocols of Zion,” which takes us on Levin’s personal journey to uncover the answers to those questions. Along the way, the film moves beyond that one document and turns into a larger investigation into rising religious and ethnic intolerance after 9/11.

Marc Levin is an award-winning filmmaker with roots in both documentary film and journalism. He brings his considerable skills to bear on this subject, to bring it in to the light

with hopes of sparking a broad discussion.

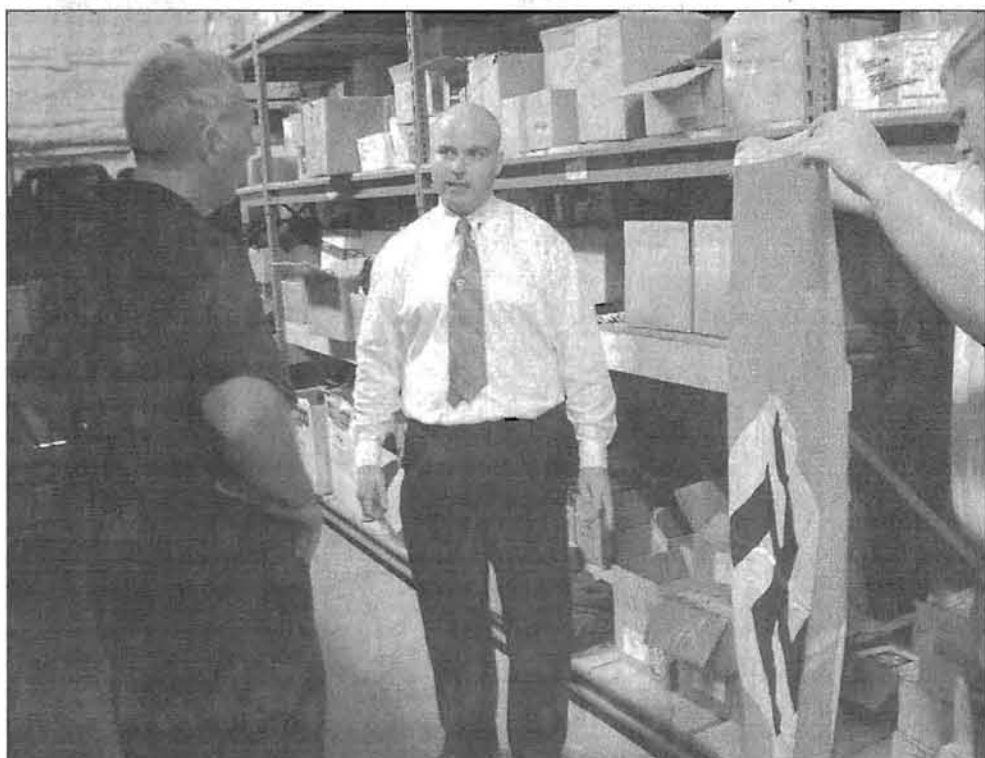
One of the first startling things that Levin uncovered was the fact that few Jews, or even members of the general population, had even heard of the Protocols, yet nearly every Black Nationalist, militant Muslim group or extremist Palestinian American he spoke to had heard of it. Among the few older Jewish people who had heard of the Protocols, many told Levin not to talk about it. Talking about it will only draw attention to a bad document, Levin was told. The filmmaker concluded that since the documentary was being circulated anyway, it was better to shine a spotlight on it.

“The Protocols of the Elders of Zion” was a Russian forgery created by the Czar’s secret police in the early twentieth century, as a way to discredit revolutionary forces by building on existing anti-Semitism. It claimed to be the minutes of a meeting in which Jewish leaders outlined how they could gain control of the world. Although it was proven to be a fake, the document later resurfaced and influenced Adolph Hitler, and the forgery is sometimes mentioned in textbooks about Hitler’s rise. Levin remembered coming across the document as a pamphlet when he was young. In the film, he talks about how it struck him as being childish and ridiculous, and like something from a Japanese science-fiction comic.

Levin’s documentary film follows him, and often his father as well, as he speaks to an amazing array of groups and individuals about “The Protocols of the Elders of Zion.” The fact that the filmmaker puts himself on camera makes the film a personal journey of sorts. What is most amazing about this film, apart from the number of groups that accept this document as real, is their willingness to talk to Levin on camera, a testament to his gentle questioning and willingness to let them have their say.

Levin often matches up contrasting viewpoints, so that a segment with a Holocaust denier is followed by one with a Holocaust survivor. Levin talks to rabbis and secular Jews, Christian fundamentalists and Muslims, neocons and anti-war protestors, Palestinian-Americans, and Black Nationalists, even neo-Nazis and members of the Aryan Nation. He talks to people in the street, in prisons, in churches, in newspaper offices and more.

His research uncovered an Arab-American newspaper right in his home state of New Jersey that was running a serialized version of the Protocols. Among the most chilling footage are excerpts of dramatizations of the Protocols that were shown on Egyptian and Hezbollah satellites TV. From a local viewpoint, some of the most disturbing scenes are when Levin appears as a guest on a St. Louis radio program hosted by a white-supremacist, who also runs a website called “Jew Watch.” Although the WGNU



Director Marc Levin (left) at National Alliance Headquarters in West Virginia in the documentary “Protocols of Zion,” about the “Protocols of the Elders of Zion,” an early twentieth century forgery that purports to outline a plan by Jewish leaders to control the world.

radio show is no longer on the air, the website still exists and pops up near the top of the list if you type in “Jew” in Google. The website has disclaimers that assert it is not anti-Semitic, but one look at the content says otherwise.

As the film unfolds, Levin ranges far beyond just the one document to discussions of growing racial and ethnic tensions generally in the post 9/11 world.

In a way, this choice to move beyond the single document makes the film more rambling and less focused than it might be. Although the topics are all important, it tries to cover a lot of ground for one film. While Levin gives some history of the Protocols, he also fails to describe how they were discredited. In addition to being a fake transcript of a meeting that never occurred, they are also a plagiarism of an older parody, which was written to poke fun at the Emperor Napoleon.

Despite its shortcomings, the documentary “Protocols of Zion” is well worth seeing, if only for the range of views it presents. The filmmaker correctly points out that there are dangers in remaining unaware of what is being circulated as fact, under the wider public’s radar. Only open discussion can dispel these kinds of rumors and replace them with facts.

“The Protocols of Zion” opens at Plaza Frontenac Cinema on Friday, Dec. 9, 2005. The theatre is also hosting a panel discussion of the film, to which the public is invited, on the following Sunday, Dec. 11, after the 4:20 p.m. show.

DRAG SHOW, from page 1

Stadtlander said he was particularly offended by the slogan on a t-shirt he was handed at the event, which read “Don’t you wish your boyfriend was hung like me?”

“I was told the t-shirts had been paid for by the University,” said Stadtlander. “I don’t care if it’s been paid for with student fees or taxpayer dollars. What matters to me is that the University okay’d the purchasing of these t-shirts with some type of community funds.”

In addition, Stadtlander said he felt portions of the event “humiliated heterosexuals,” with jokes about their sexuality, violating the University’s sexual orientation anti-discrimination policy.

Stadtlander said, “I liken it to a fraternity sponsoring an event on campus where they pulled gay members of the audience on stage and belittled them and harassed them, calling them ‘faggot.’ Can you imagine the implications of that? It’s a double standard. Harassment is wrong, period.”

Jane Cunningham, R-Chesterfield, said if Stadtlander accurately described the event, the University should suspend the group that organized the event.

“If fraternities act inappropriately, have drunk orgies or whatever, they’re off campus,” said Cunningham. “That happens regularly around the country. That would be the kind of response I would have expected.”

Cunningham said she would prefer to leave handling the matter to University officials, but if the response is ‘inadequate,’ she said she would consider bringing the matter before the legislature.

Haberer said the event was provocative and edgy, but all in good fun. “Was it indecent? It was a drag

show,” she said. “But we didn’t tie anyone down into chairs and have them watch the show.”

Rankins said the show was about “satire and comedy, spoofing contemporary culture.” He said while the performers used edgy language and adult themes, the event did not break the norm for a college campus.

“I walk through this Nosh everyday and I hear stuff that would be censored off of Jerry Springer,” he said.

Besides, Rankins said, student fees are intended for use by all student groups, even if some students may find certain group events offensive.

“There have been many pieces of programming that I have been deeply offended by,” Rankins said. “But not once did I ever think that the whole University programming structure should be abolished. We all have different opinions and we all have a right have those heard.”

Campus groups have rallied behind PRIZM. At the Student Government Association meeting on Friday, the assembly approved a resolution affirming student groups’ right to host diverse programming.

SGA President D’Andre Braddix said he wanted to send the resolution to the UM Board of Curators at their meeting in Kansas City on Friday to show that the campus supports PRIZM and its controversial event.

Meanwhile, Haberer said PRIZM plans to hold another drag show next year despite the recent criticism.

“I care a lot about this cause, and outside of anything unlawful, nothing is going to stop me,” Haberer said. “If anything, I think it’s probably going to give us some good publicity for next year. Everyone will want to see the ‘scandalous show.’”

WINTER MOVIES, from page 8

December 23:
Big stuff this week. Steven Spielberg’s historical film “Munich” about the terrorist attacks on Israeli athletes during the 1972 Olympics and Israel’s spy agency Mossad’s efforts to track down the members of the Palestinian terrorist group who were responsible. Stars Eric Bana and Geoffrey Rush.

Also opening is “Memoirs of a Geisha,” based on the best-selling book about a young girl’s rise in the world of geishas in the waning years of that world. With an Asian all-star cast of Ziyi Zhang (House of Flying Daggers), Ken Watanabe (Last Samurai) and Michelle Yeoh (Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon).

“Transamerica,” which debuted here at the St. Louis International Film Festival, is set to open this week, too. It is a Hollywood road picture with a twist, starring Felicity Huffman as a pre-operative transsexual man who travels across the country after discovering he has a teenaged son.

For animation fans, there is the Shrek-inspired, computer-animated “Hoodwinked,” which is a Rashomon-like retelling of “who done it” in the Little Red Riding Hood caper. Voiced by Anne Hathaway, Patrick Warburton and James Belushi.

Also on the lighter side is the family-friendly “Cheaper By The Dozen 2,” a sequel to the comedy remake about a large family, starring Steve Martin, Bonnie Hunt and Hilary Duff.

December 25:
First a movie, then a Broadway musical, now a musical movie, Mel Brooks’ “The Producers” is still funny, hum-able, and delightful. Featuring the original Broadway stars, Nathan Lane and Mathew Broderick, plus Uma Thurman and Will Ferrell.

Another theatrical-themed new film is the wonderful “Mrs. Henderson Presents,” which debuted locally at the St. Louis International Film Festival. The film is based on real events, about a lively, wealthy, upper-crust British widow who opens a theater that features live nude “tableau” in pre-WWII London. Stars Judi Dench and Bob Hoskins.

On the darker side is the Sundance film festival hit, horror film “Wolf Creek,” also based on real events, but in Australia.

Rob Reiner’s “Rumor Has It” is a comedy about a woman, played by Jennifer Aniston, finding out that her family may have inspired the movie “The Graduate.” Also stars Mark Ruffalo and Kevin Costner.

Not listed to open here so far, “The Ringer” is a comedy, starring Johnny Knoxville and produced, but not directed, by the Farrelly Brothers, about two men trying rig the Special Olympics by entering an able-bodied ringer. Don’t know if this will be much of a loss.



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Alberto Patino/The Current

Professor Eric Love performed 'The Rambling Nut' Nov. 18 and 19.

Professor reveals 'Nut' to theater audience

BY ALBERTO PATINO
Staff Writer

"The Rambling Nut" is a powerful example of the "personal narrative" style of theater, during which a performer constructs an autobiographical story and recounts it in a dramatic context before an audience.

Kicking off Thanksgiving break on Friday, Nov. 18, and Saturday, Nov. 19 was UM-St. Louis professor Eric Love's one-man show "The Rambling Nut" at the Touhill's Lee Theatre.

Love chose his long and excruciating battle with testicular cancer and treatment for his personal narrative. Originally part of his graduate dissertation, "Nut" walks us through his experience as a 23-year-old student without health insurance, recently diagnosed with cancer.

Stepping out barefoot in a red hospital gown, and starting with a monotone reading of his original pathology report, Love briefly placed the audience in a sterile environment devoid of emotion. No sooner than he finished reading, however, the mood abruptly changed. He began telling the true story of how he accosted an ortho-

my nurse in and declared, "Hi, I'm Eric Love. I'm here to pick up my nut!"

From there Love set the tone, making certain to all that he wasn't about to yield to his illness, especially not without a spirited fight and a brutally candid sense of humor. Speaking to the audience with all the warmth and charisma of an old friend at the bar, Love told his story. He made eye contact with audience members in a way that never felt confrontational, only conversational.

Armed with a shoebox full of actual letters from college friends, he read many witty and sweetly funny words of support aloud, including a brilliantly satirical McCarthy-styled letter accusing of him being a communist. Little artifacts like this added both authenticity and comic relief to a story steeped in its share of pain.

Certainly we shared simply unbearably rueful moments of Love's performance where one could not help but be overcome with compassion. On the verge of tears, Love ruminated over one possible stress precursor to his cancer. He remembered witnessing a classmate die in a car accident, only to see friends futilely attempt to cheer on and revive the lifeless body. Later he had to personally tell the crash victim's

best friend the news. And still later, with gritted teeth he recalled a tactless clergywoman and her insipid and despicable words regarding that tragedy.

Most painful of all, however, was Love's visceral reenactment of chemo-induced nausea, where he writhed around on the floor in total delirium. He vomited repeatedly amidst stifled words and half finished sentences, desperately struggling to pull himself up to the light of a window for respite. It was a pathetic display of humanity, and when the segment was done, with no pretense whatsoever, Love kindly took a box of Kleenex out of the shoebox and offered it to some grief-stricken women in the front row.

Definitely instrumental in making the stories come alive were the remarkable lighting and set designs for "Nut." Love felt very particular about setting the performance in the pit area as opposed to onstage. It put him on the same level as the audience, literally and symbolically. This thrust stage configuration truly made his performance less like a "show" and more of an egalitarian community, one where a person could bear his heart among friends.

True to form, set designer Timothy

Poertner demonstrated his usual talent for visual assemblage, and complimented Love perfectly. Whether it was the bold move of magnifying and projecting cancerous cells across the theatre floor, projecting enlargements of Love's medical documents as he read them, or highlighting the color-coded hospital orientation lines as Love walked down them, Poertner did a laudable job of visually taking us through Love's onerous journey.

Certain critics believe personal narrative is not true acting, since the performer does not "act" per se, rather portrays himself in true-to-life fashion. Regardless of whether there is truth to this sentiment, after having seen "The Rambling Nut," I am convinced how vital and pertinent the personal narrative is to theatre.

Any theatre enthusiasts fortunate enough to have been in attendance were truly blessed with a moving and informative dramatic piece of a singular nature.

With veracity and sincerity, Love has rendered this real story that is at once medical yet warm, and clinical yet completely human. Love did more than survive. He triumphed over cancer and turned this victory into a courageous work of reflective art.

Staff Viewpoints

New UMSL radio will make cheesy bridge music obsolete

BY KATE SHAW
Staff Writer

Pap [pap]: 1. bland or semi-liquid food such as that suitable for babies or invalids. 2. any reading matter or entertainment that is worthless or lacking in substance

When I saw this word the other day, I immediately thought of the piped in "pap" that passes for music on the Millennium Student Center sky bridge. Has anyone ever really listened to this strange dreck? Sure, the songs seem familiar, at first, but if one listens more closely (don't), one realizes that the tunes are actually generic, non-threatening versions of the worst offerings of commercial radio. Watered-down knock-offs slapped onto loop tapes and possibly donated by some non-for-profit dimension of ASCAP. Fast food jingles shake more action.

And am I just paranoid or is there a certain, very embarrassing, semi-inspirational thread throughout the various castrations of pop, country, blues and R&B ballads? I swear I heard an Avril impersonator (picture an American Idol reject in a LA alt-muzak chop shop) gasping out the following lyrics: "So much to do/running late/cold pizza for breakfast/but it's all ok-aay." After I knelt down and discretely vomited into one of the thoughtfully placed potted plants, I realized that as a person with a lot to do who is also running late, no, it was not all ok-aay. But good music—or even nonstop Polka music—in place of Prozac-laced mockeries of hectic student life would make it better. That's kind of why good music was invented.

That's where the eulogy ends and a UM-St. Louis milestone begins.

Starting next semester, we will have a student-run FM radio station to ease us through harried beginnings and gift us with something that is actually

catchy or interesting. On cold days we can sprawl out on one of those weird little couches in the sky and be effortlessly entertained and informed by student talk shows, campus happenings and real music. As early as the end of next January, we will be a real school with college radio.

Four men have already done the hard part—Dr. Charles Granger, Dr. James Fay, Marcel Bechtoldt and former radio personality Jim Singer have a signal up and raring to go at 101.9. They have even created a new student organization in the Student Electronic Media Professionals' Association (SEMPA). The motives of these four (two of whom are biologists) were made very clear at the first SEMPA meeting two weeks ago: a love for radio and their desire to put a station into the hands of the student body.

The format is still wide open for anyone who likes the idea of playing DJ to the whole school, hosting a talk show, writing news stories or learning about radio production in general. Producers, directors and play lists are needed. This is also a keen opportunity for other student organizations to get involved and get on the air waves. For information on the next meeting, interested students should contact Jim Singer by e-mail at singerj@ums.edu.

It should also be noted that while Chancellor Tom George was not mentioned officially at the meeting, it can hardly be a coincidence that a long-overdue radio station is showing up on his watch—he and his wife Dr. Barbara Harbach are a couple of music freaks. More respectfully, he is an accomplished jazz pianist and she a renowned composer, both with a couple of records to their credit. And come to think of it, George definitely knows some biologists. Something to keep in mind this winter when we are griping about his famous inability to call a snow day...on the air.

Laid-back Loop coffee-house is easy to love

BY MONICA MARTIN
Staff Writer

If you are looking for some great coffee, without the trendiness of Starbucks, visit the laid-back Meshuggah's Coffeehouse in the Loop in University City.

Meshuggah's is a small, hole-in-the-wall coffeehouse on Delmar, across from Streetside Records. There are two levels. The downstairs has the small counter/serving area and seating. It is painted in muted oranges and yellows with a wooden floor. The upstairs also has seating, and is painted light green to keep you awake. Seating is available outside as well. Although the coffeehouse is small, it is cozy, giving you the feeling of sitting in your own kitchen, rather than a place of business.

My friend and I arrived in the afternoon. We walked in and headed up to the counter. There were a few people in front of us, so we were able to peruse the small menu. Aside from coffee and cappuccino, Meshuggah's also offers herbal teas, power shakes, smoothies, hot chocolates, and Fitz's bottled drinks. Meshuggah's does not brew their coffee in advance. They make it as you wait, and they make it Americano-style, which is adding hot water to an espresso shot.

Along with drinks, Meshuggah's serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner, including sandwiches, soups, scones, muffins, bagels, and lots more. My friend and I each ordered a large hot chocolate. We took our drinks and took advantage of the warm weather and sat outside. I liked it, but my friend thought it was too sweet for her taste. We both agreed it was better than what Starbucks dishes out.



Meshuggah is a Yiddish word that means crazy. However, that atmosphere is quite the opposite. Customers worked on laptops, read newspapers and textbooks, and engaged in lively conversations. There was no rush to place your order and grab your drink and go. Patrons are able to stretch their legs and catch their breaths without the hassle of hurry.

The service at Meshuggah's coffeehouse was good. Our server was nice, but not overly-friendly. Dressed in jeans and a flannel with visible tattoos, it was as if our next-door-neighbor was serving us instead of an employee in a rigid atmosphere. It was rather refreshing.

Meshuggah's coffeehouse is located at 6269 Delmar, down the street from the Red Sea, across from Streetside Records. It is open seven days a week. Support your local coffeehouse—visit Meshuggah's on the Loop in University City. You will be pleasantly surprised.



Annie McCutchen, Barista at Meshuggah's, makes a Hot Chocolate for a customer Saturday night. Meshuggah's is located in the Delmar Loop.

Adam D. Wiseman/The Current

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ECE

NUTH BUT THE FUNK

Hello, sir! Do you have a moment for the environment?

The environment?! I'd never help the environment after what happened to me and Sid in the woods that one night!

Alright, punks, hands in the air! Take all your cash and put it in my knothole! NOW!!

Thanks! I'll see you chumps around!

Oh my god, HE'S GETTING AWAY??

"Bad Apple Tree"

LIFE IN HELL

WHY AM I ALWAYS THE ONE WHO HAS TO APOLOGIZE?

ONLY A MAN WOULDN'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION.

I'M SORRY?

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Salome's Stars

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You might feel that you have all the answers right now. But it might be wise to listen to other ideas before you decide to close the lid on other possibilities.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Bovines give and expect loyalty, so it might not be easy to reconcile with someone you feel let you down. Why not ask a neutral party to set up a clear-the-air meeting?

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Anticipating the holidays with family and friends fuels your must-do Gemini energies. But try to pace yourself so you'll be up for whatever comes along later.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) More background information might come through regarding a decision you expect to make. Be sure to check the source carefully before you move.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) The strong, nurturing nature of the Lion comes through this week as you reach out to family and friends in need of your warm and loving support.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A relationship that has almost totally unraveled could be close to being restored with more effort on your part to be more patient and less judgmental.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Your sense of fair play is strong this week, which can cause a problem with a longtime relationship. But in the end, you'll know what decision to make.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You might not know all the facts behind an unwelcome development, so keep that Scorpion temper in check and resist lashing out at anyone.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) This is a good time to reinforce relationships -- family, friends, colleagues -- that might have been overlooked in recent years.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Family situations continue to thrive. Business associations also improve. Some holiday plans might have to be shifted a bit. Be flexible.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Avoid any influence of negative energy in this week's aspect by not allowing small problems to grow into large ones. Work them out immediately.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) A friend might need advice on how to deal with a challenge to his or her moral values. And who better than you to give the honest answer? Good luck.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a sense of adventure that inspires others to follow your lead.

Super Crossword

EIRE COLORING

ACROSS

1 Patrick of "A Clockwork Orange"

11 Injurious

14 Hoover or Aswan

17 Mrs. Marcos

19 "Dreaming of You" singer

20 Actress MacGraw

21 Significant years

22 Jim Hanson creation

24 Unexpectoed success

26 Chemical ending

27 — gras

28 When Satie swailed

30 Street talk

31 Ballyhoo

32 Saled veggie

36 Zoo attraction

37 — Don't Preach" (86 hit)

40 Part of Q.E.D.

41 Fancy fabric

43 Clint Eastwood movie

48 AAA handout

52 Sault — Marie, Mi

53 To boot

54 — "Angel" (33 film)

55 Lurid Lugosi

56 Gumshoe

57 Strained

58 Hogan's home

61 Asian capital

62 Omvry Olympian

64 Gangster's gun

65 "Pama — Ding Dong" (61 tune)

66 "Emme" author

67 Self-possessed

72 Hutton or Tewes

75 Patriot James

76 Chum star

77 Length x width

81 "Low Grant" star

82 Key handle

84 Constel-lation component

86 East ender?

87 Caty remark?

88 "Jumbo" set

89 Beige

90 Crane

91 Candy quantity

92 Hugh Masekela hit

98 Speculation

100 Soccer great

101 Help a hood

102 Lustrous

103 Ornamental shrub

105 Sleep in the woods

108 Roused

109 Charge

110 Fountain order

111 Medical grip

114 United

118 John D. MacDonald book or this puzzle's theme

122 Boiter

123 Presidential nickname

124 Singer Percy

125 Mouse or moose

126 King's handle

127 Crow's comment

128 It may be eaten or drunk

129 Utilize

DOWN

1 Dika or Douglas

2 So be it

3 Richard of "First Knight"

4 Common street name

5 Uplift

6 Victory sign

7 TV ET

8 By means of

9 Yoko — ("89 song)

10 Blows one's

11 Military center

12 Dryden's "for Love"

13 Some engines

14 Bureau

15 Fight site

16 Actress theme

18 Perched on

19 Haggard heroine

23 Blind

25 Czech river

29 Houston or Ritter

31 Corlains

32 Auto acronym

33 Pound sound

34 June honoree

35 Japanese statesman

36 Nil

37 It's tossed with sauce

38 Behind helping

39 Cake

42 Chinese principle

44 Make lace

45 Pua vessel

46 Ordinary

47 "Whole — Love"

48 New Hamp-sire's state flower

50 — vera

51 Ache

55 Iraqi city

58 Blackboard

59 Unspoken

60 Cause a chuckle

61 Color

63 It needs to be threaded

66 Loud

68 — the ram-parts ...

69 Maestro Georg

70 In a slew

71 Fire wood?

72 It becomes ewe?

73 Lost

74 Noncon-formist

78 Change for the better

79 Rub out

80 Dread

82 TV's "John"

83 Organic catalyst

85 Carpet

88 Football's lineman

92 Non-proprietary

93 "All Things Considered" network

94 Procure

95 Under the weather

96 Boon

97 Chat

99 Walk in the woods

102 Nobel, for one

104 It makes rye high

105 Pigeon English?

106 — Romeo

107 — cum laude

108 Way over

109 Scared

110 — Quevara

111 Rope fiber

112 It should be square

113 Erya's "Time"

115 Alias initials

117 Mr. Ziegfeld

118 Whore goats

119 Pitches

120 Cpl.'s superior

121 Tear

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